Vol. LIV—No. 4.

BENGAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
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Assembly Proceedings

Official Report

Bengal Legislative Assembly

Fifth Session, 1939

20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th and 27th
March, 1939

Superintendent, Government Printing
Bengal Government Press, Alipore, Bengal
1939

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THE BENGAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY PROCEEDINGS

(Official Report of the Fifth Session.

Volume LIV—No. 4

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Monday, the 20th March, 1939, at 4-45 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. AZIZUL HAQUE, C.I.E.) in the Chair, 11 Hon'ble Ministers and 212 members.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Breaches in the Jamuna at Serajganj.

*223. **Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works (Irrigation) Department aware—

(*i*) that the river Jamuna is cutting its way towards the town of Serajganj;

(*ii*) that it has eroded some villages near Serajganj Ghat station and has washed away a considerable portion in and between the B.L.H.E. School and the bungalow of the Joint Steamer Company; and

(*iii*) that immediate protection work is necessary to save Government property and property of the public?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, do the Government contemplate any action in the matter for which a deputation waited upon him on the 17th January, 1939, during his visit at Pabna?

MINISTER in charge of the COMMUNICATIONS and WORKS DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Maharaja Srischandra Nandy, of Cossimbazar): (*a*) (*i*) The river is cutting its bank but not to such an extent as to cause any immediate threat to the town.

(*ii*) Yes.

(*iii*) and (*b*) No. The existing brick mattress is at present adequate for the protection of the town. The situation, however, is being carefully watched.

Babu NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRABARTY:

সিরাজগঞ্জ সহর নদীগর্ভস্থ হবার পূর্বে গভর্ণমেন্ট কি সে বিষয়ে কিছু কোরবেন না বলেই ঠিক কোরেছেন?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: That is not a fact.

Babu NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRABARTY:

মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয়ের প্রথম উত্তরে লেখা আছে but not to such an extent as to cause any immediate threat to the town সিরাজগঞ্জ সহরের সম্বন্ধে এই immediate threat না হওয়া পর্য্যন্ত গভর্ণমেন্টের কিছু করবার মতলব নাই না কি?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: Certainly.

Recording measurements in the measurement book by passed overseers.

***224. Dr. GOBINDA CHANDRA BHOWMIK:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works Department aware that a letter from the Secretary of the Department (through the Department of Finance) to the Accountant-General, Bengal, was circulated in September last to the effect that the work-charged overseers who do not possess the minimum overseer or upper subordinate qualification of the Overseer Examination Board cannot record any measurements in the measurement book?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the principle of the letter is being observed by the subordinate officers?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the negative, are the Government considering the desirability of issuing another circular to the effect that only the passed overseers of the Overseer Examination Board will

supervise the work and record measurements in all cases (original or repairs)?

(*d*) Is it a fact—

(*i*) that both overseer and sub-overseer are working together in the Alipur subdivision of the Suburban Division; and

(*ii*) that the right of recording measurements is being exercised by the sub-overseer?

(*e*) If the answer to (*d*) is in the affirmative, are the Government considering the desirability of taking steps in the matter?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: (*a*) I am not prepared to give information regarding the contents of letters issued to subordinate officers.

(*b*) and (*c*) Do not arise.

(*d*) Yes.

(*e*) As the overseer has been found incompetent, he has not been allowed to record any measurements.

Flood relief in Tangail subdivision.

*225. **Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department aware that the last flood has affected the *aus* and jute crops and in some places *amau* paddy too of the cultivators in the Tangail subdivision, Mymensingh?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the amount that has been distributed to the cultivators towards—

(*i*) gratuitous relief,

(*ii*) agricultural loans, and

(*iii*) test relief

separately up till now?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware—

(*i*) that the amount already distributed has been inadequate to meet the situation;

(*ii*) that there are still many people who have not yet received any help in the shape of relief or loan;

(*iii*) that there are cultivators who could not procure even the necessary seeds for the next harvest; and

(*iv*) that the agriculturist people of the subdivision are in distress?

(*d*) Are the Government considering the desirability of giving further reliefs in the form of gratuitous relief, agricultural loans and test relief to the aforesaid affected areas of the subdivision?

MINISTER in charge of the REVENUE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Bijoy Prasad Singh Roy): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) (*i*) Rs. 1,000.

(*ii*) Rs. 61,572. A further sum of Rs. 11,078 will be distributed before the 31st March, 1939.

(*iii*) Rs. 4,500 has been sanctioned by the District Board.

(*c*) (*i*) The further sum of Rs. 11,078 proposed to be distributed is considered sufficient to meet the situation.

(*ii*) and (*iii*) No.

(*iv*) Nearly all the affected people have either been relieved or are being relieved.

(*d*) Yes, if necessary.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY:

মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয় কি অবগত আছেন যে টাঙ্গাইলের লোকেরা [illegible] আছে?

Mr. SPEAKER: Including yourself!

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: আমি জিজ্ঞাসা কোরছি—টাঙ্গাইলে যেখানে নাকি চাষীরা শতকরা পঁচিশ ভাগ ফসল পায় নাই তারা সব না খেয়ে আছে। এ বিষয় কি মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয় অবগত আছেন?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: That is not a fact.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state in this House what method have the Government adopted in distributing gratuitous relief?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Gratuitous relief has been distributed mostly to landless people—people who are not in a position to earn their livelihood otherwise than by manual labour, but could not do so due to circumstances beyond their control.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the local authorities keep a list of the persons who are landless and who starve without getting gratuitous relief from anybody?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: It has been done very systematically.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY:

মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয় এ বিষয়ে বিশেষভাবে কি তদন্ত কোরবেন যে সেখানে চাষীরা না খেয়ে আছে কি না?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: The question is so absurd that Government do not consider it necessary to make further enquiries.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Does the Hon'ble Minister think that there is nobody in Bengal who starves? Why does he say that the question is absurd?

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister enlighten us whether he has come to know of any cases of death by starvation of people?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: There was no death due to starvation.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any application or petition has come from the local people to the Hon'ble Minister that many people are going without food because Government are not giving gratuitous relief?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: In Madaripur?

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: No, I am asking my question about Tangail. This is the case all over Bengal Our friends may keep "chup," but we cannot keep "chup."

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: It is no use trying to be more loyal than the king. Some members of the Coalition Party are more interested in Tangail than Mr. Biswas. Government are in daily touch with the situation, and the allegations made by the honourable member are absolutely baseless.

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: Is the Hon'ble Minister justified in making such allegations about this side?

Mr. SPEAKER: When somebody starts something from this side and a counter-reply is given from the other side, I cannot help it.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: My question has not been answered. I ask the Hon'ble Minister to let us know whether he has received petitions from the local people intimating that they were not getting gratuitous relief?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: No, Sir.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY:

মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয় ৪র্থ প্রশ্নের উত্তরে যা বোলেছেন সেটা ঠিক প্রশ্নের উত্তর হয় নাই। তারা distressed কি না সে বিষয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয় কোন উত্তর দেন নাই।

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Sir, I think the answer is correct to the point.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: With reference to reply (c) (vi), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the definite number of people who have received gratuitous relief in that locality?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: I ask for notice.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: In view of his previous reply that it is absurd to suggest that so many people are starving, and in view of his present reply that he does not know the definite number of people who have received gratuitous relief, will the Hon'ble Minister please withdraw his previous reply?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order.

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Certainly not.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY:

মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয় কি অনুগ্রহ কোরে বোলবেন,—গভর্ণমেন্ট কোন test relief work সেখানে খুলবেন কি না?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Yes, a sum of Rs. 4,500 has been sanctioned by the District Board for test relief work. The test relief work is opened on the recommendation of the Collector with the help of the District Board.

Rights of jotedars and chaukanidars in the Western Duars Khas Mahal.

*226. **Babu KHAGENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state in connection with Western Duars Government Khas Mahal whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that the *jotedars* have been given no right to settle homestead tenants on *danga* lands not fit for cultivation and for which they have to pay rents without the previous sanction of the Deputy Commissioner; and

(*ii*) that a *chaukanidar* has got no right to transfer or sell his lands either in whole or in part without the previous sanction of his *jotedar*?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of granting such rights to *jotedars* and *chaukanidars*?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: (*a*) (*i*) Yes. In small *jotes* not exceeding 25 acres which are meant for actual cultivators, sub-letting is entirely forbidden. In other forms of lease, the *jotedars* have contracted not to sub-let any part of their *jotes* to non-agriculturists, as the leases are for cultivation only.

(*ii*) Yes.

(*b*) It is proposed to take up the question in connection with Mr. Stuart's report on Khas Mahal administration.

Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government are contemplating the introduction of the Bengal Tenancy Act in these areas?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: The matter is under examination.

Babu KHAGENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to give us some idea of the time when he will be able to take up the question?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: It is very difficult to give a definite idea about time. The matter is under examination: That is all I can inform the honourable member.

Babu KHAGENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Mr. Stuart's report on the khas mahal administration will be available to the members?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Yes, Sir, if the honourable member wants a copy of the same, I can supply him one.

Want of public latrine at Sub-Registry Office, Netrokona, Mymensingh.

*227. **Mr. ABUL HOSAIN AHMED:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education (Registration) Department aware—

(*i*) that a large number of *purdahnashin* ladies attend the Sub-Registry Office at Netrokona in Mymensingh for the purpose of registration;

(*ii*) that there is no arrangement for their waiting accommodation; and

(*iii*) that there is no public latrine for men as well as for women in that office?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, are the Government considering the desirability of taking necessary action in the matter?

MINISTER in charge of the EDUCATION DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq): (*a*) (*i*) Some *purdahnashin* ladies attend the office for the purpose of registration. Their number is not large, however.

(*ii*) Yes. They wait in their own conveyances.

(*iii*) Yes.

(*b*) Due to the heavy cost involved by the provision of latrines for males and females in rural offices as well as the paucity of sweepers and want of sufficient space in the compounds of the offices, Government are unable to make arrangements. Parties make their own arrangements according to the custom of the countryside.

Mr. ABUL HOSAIN AHMED: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is not a fact that the poor agriculturist ladies come to registration offices generally in *dulis* measuring 1 × 1½ cubit?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. ABUL HOSAIN AHMED: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that a sanitary privy can be constructed there at a cost of Rs. 150 or 200?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I have no idea, but if the honourable member insists, I can make an enquiry.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the sub-registry office at Netrokona is located near a bazar?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I have no information.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is aware that ladies have to wait in their conveyances at a great personal disadvantage?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I must admit that reports have been received of inconvenience to female registrants from time to time, and I have asked the Inspector-General of Registration to enquire into the matter The question is one of funds. If the cost is not prohibitive, we would be prepared to see what could be done in the matter.

Private exhibition of German films by German trading firms.

*228. **Dr. SANAULLAH:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Police) Department aware that certain German trading firms give private exhibitions of German films extolling the Hitler regime in public show houses of Calcutta?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether such films are censored before being exhibited in Bengal?

MINISTER in charge of the HOME DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) I have no information.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he has made any enquiry?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Yes, Sir, but enquiries have revealed no information

Rate of school fees in the primary and secondary schools in Bengal.

*229. **Dr. SHARAT CHANDRA MUKHERJI:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department aware -

(i) that the rate of school fees both in the primary and secondary schools have increased since long;

(ii) that in addition to the school fees the students are to pay as magazine fee, ink fee, printing charge, *pankha* fee, game fee, tiffin fee, etc., almost every month; and

(iii) that most of the guardians find it difficult to meet the cost of education in these days of economic distress?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, are the Government considering the desirability of reducing the expenses of popular education?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: (a) (i) There are no prescribed rates of school fees in primary schools and I have no information about their increase.

The rates of tuition fees in Government high schools were revised in 1924 and certain rates of tuition fees were prescribed for aided secondary schools in 1927. Since then no further increase has been made.

(ii) Yes; but fees other than tuition fees are charged in non-Government schools by the school authorities at their own discretion to meet the cost of services rendered to the pupils.

(iii) Some guardians may find it difficult to do so.

(b) The rates of school fees referred to in (i) above are reasonable. But the question of the reduction or discontinuance of other fees rests with the Managing Committees of schools

Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether in 1927 prices were very high and money was cheap, but now, when it is not so, there are reasons for reducing the amount of school fees?

Mr. SPEAKER: Has there been any question of reduction? I think the question is not quite relevant.

Maulvi ABDUL BARI: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the existing rate of fees in secondary high schools has been causing great hardship to the cultivating classes in educating their children?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: The question of reduction of school fees is a very large question, and it means a loss of Government revenue No proposal has been put forward before Government. But if the honourable member wants to pursue the matter further and if any application is made, I am prepared to consider the whole question.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: With reference to answer (b), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the grant-in-aid rules enjoin that the rate of fees should be according to the revised rate of 1924 and whether the grants-in-aid are generally withdrawn or kept in abeyance if that rate is not maintained?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I do not think they are withdrawn, but they may be kept in abeyance pending settlement with the school authorities.

Maulvi ABDUL BARI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether individual applications from individual schools will be considered by Government?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise

Maulvi ABDUL BARI: I submit, Sir, that is relevant to the answer given by the Hon'ble Minister.

(No reply.)

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: What were the school fees during the time when the Hon'ble Minister was himself a student in a school, and has the paying power of the guardians since decreased or increased?

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid that question does not arise.

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: With reference to answer (*ii*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government schools also charge in addition to school fees, magazine fee, punkha fee, ink fee, printing charge, game fee, tiffin fee?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I am not aware, Sir.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether these fees, I mean the magazine fee, ink fee, printing charge, etc., are in the nature of *abwabs* and wrongful exactions?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a question of pure legal opinion

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to consider the desirability of making an enquiry into the question whether in Government schools such *abwabs* are levied?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: All that I know is that some kind of fees are realised but that is done by consent, and I have received no complaints. If there is a complaint, I would ask the honourable member to put a definite question

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that in this very city of Calcutta in the Hare School this state of affairs exists?

Mr. SPEAKER: Individual schools should not be brought in the shape of questions.

Maulvi Abdur Rahman, Maulvi Saadullah and Maulvi Naziruddin, Lecturers in Calcutta Madrassah.

*230. **Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(1) the dates of appointment of—

(*i*) Maulvi Saadullah,

(*ii*) Maulvi Abdur Rahman, and

(*iii*) Maulvi Naziruddin

as lecturers in the Calcutta Madrassah;

(2) their respective qualifications;

(3) the grades of salaries; and

(4) their respective native districts?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether the posts were advertised in any paper;

(*ii*) if so, the date of publication; and

(*iii*) whether there was any candidate for those posts, who passed from the Calcutta Madrassah?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: (*a*) A statement is laid on the table.

(*b*) (*i*) Yes, except the one held by Maulvi Saadullah, who holds the post on a temporary basis only. The question whether the post should be filled up by promotion from the lower grade or by direct recruitment is under the consideration of the Director of Public Instruction.

(*ii*) The post of Lecturer in *Fiqah* and *Usul* held by Maulvi Abdur Rahman was advertised in the *Star of India* on the 8th and 9th September, 1937, and in the *Asre Jadid* on 10th and 11th September, 1937.

The post of Lecturer in Modern Arabic held by Maulvi Naziruddin was advertised in the *Star of India* on 14th and 16th August, 1937, and in the *Asre Jadid* on 17th and 18th August, 1937.

(*iii*) Yes.

Statement referred to in the reply to clause (a) to starred question No 230.

No.	Names.	Date of appointment.	Qualifications	Grades of salaries.	Home districts.	Remarks.
1	Maulvi Md. Saadullah.	13th August, 1938	Passed from Darul Ulum Madrassah, Deoband	Rs 75—8 2—115 5/2—125 (efficiency bar) —5/2 —135—10 2—175	Peshawar	
2	Maulvi Abdur Rahman Alkashghari.	26th February, 1938	Passed Final Examination of Nadwa in First Division and Fazil-i-Adab in Second Division of Lucknow University	Rs 125 per mensem	Lucknow.	
3	Maulvi Naziruddin	24th September, 1937	Passed Bengal Madrasah Final Examination in First Division. Also passed Final Examination from Madrassah Islamia, Bihar.	Rs 150—10—400	Cuttack	Pending a permanent arrangement after advertisement, he first acted in the post on a temporary basis on the recommendation of the Principal, Calcutta Madrassah. He was appointed substantively to the post, after selection, on 6th July, 1938, the date of the permanent vacancy

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if there is a selection board for making appointments in the Calcutta Madrassah?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Yes.

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: May I know what is the personnel of the board?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I want notice.

Maulvi ABDUL BARI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many of the candidates who applied were Bengalis and how many were non-Bengalis?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I want notice, Sir.

Maulvi ABDUL BARI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is aware that Bengali-speaking candidates were not selected for these posts?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I am not aware, Sir.

Maulvi ABDUL BARI: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that there is a great feeling in Bengal because preference is given in the matter of appointments to non-Bengalis?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Yes, Sir. I know that there is an agitation unfortunately.

Motor accidents in Calcutta.

***231. Babu KHAGENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Police) Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing for the year 1938 for the city of Calcutta—

(*i*) the number of persons killed and injured by motor accidents; and

(*ii*) how many of them were tramway passengers who while alighting were knocked down by motor vehicles?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that in most of the Western countries when a tram car stops motor vehicles are not allowed to cross until the passengers safely reach the footpath?

(c) Is it a fact that the Indian members of the Automobile Association of Bengal approached the Commissioner of Police, Calcutta, to frame such rules for the city of Calcutta for the safety of the tramway passengers?

(d) Is it also a fact that the Commissioner of Police has refused to take any such actions?

(e) Is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of taking special measures for the prevention of such accidents and for making tramway safe for passengers?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: (a) (i) Killed 90 and injured 2,448. (Motors include taxi cabs, buses, other motor vehicles and other public conveyances.)

(ii) No separate account is kept.

(b) Yes, where the streets are comparatively wider than in Calcutta.

(c) Yes.

(d) The proposal was rejected owing to the continuous congestion and consequent delay which would result at each tramway stop, particularly during the "peak" periods, on narrow and already congested streets. Moreover a rule of such a special nature would require extra police to ensure its enforcement.

(e) Yes. An experiment is being made with this object in view at Holwell's Monument.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the number of accidents in which private motor cars, taxi-cabs and buses have been respectively involved during the last year?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I ask for notice.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that there have been a large number of accidents in the streets of Calcutta in which motor buses plying under police licence in the city have been involved?

Mr. SPEAKER: Your point is that it is not taxis or private cars but motor buses which are chiefly responsible for these accidents?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Yes, Sir.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: The figures are given, and very likely the honourable member's statement is correct.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that a potent cause for these accidents is the long hours that the drivers of these buses are required to work?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Sir, that is an extremely debatable point, and I am not prepared to accept it without further evidence.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Do Government consider the desirability of making an investigation into the matter as to whether the buses are responsible and, if so, whether the reason——

Mr. SPEAKER: The reason, I am afraid, you must leave out.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: All right, Sir.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I am certain that the number of accidents caused by buses is certainly proportionately not greater than that caused by taxi-cabs and private motor cars. I think, on the other hand, that it is the private cars that are the worst offenders.

Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state with reference to answer (*d*), whether the suggestion will be accepted, so far as Cornwallis Street, College Street and Chitpur Road are concerned?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: The restrictions mentioned are impracticable, in view of the grounds mentioned in answer (*d*), so far as the three streets are concerned.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that buses do not stop when passengers want to alight, with the result that many of them get injured?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Buses are expected to stop at bus-stops, and passengers should avoid getting down at places other than bus-stops.

(At this stage Mr. Speaker indicated to the Secretary to call out the next question.)

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Sir, I should like to answer any other supplementary questions that may be put to me.

Mr. SPEAKER: But I want to take up the Police Budget as early as possible.

Establishment of charitable dispensary at Terokhada, Khulna.

*232. **Mr. ABDUL HAKEEM:** (a) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Medical Department aware—

(i) that there is no charitable dispensary at police-station Terokhada (Khulna);

(ii) that in the vicinity of the thana-quarters there are a high school, a madrassah, a bazar and a *zemindary kutchery*; and

(iii) that the people residing in the thana come up to the Khulna town for medical relief?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, are the Government considering the desirability of establishing a charitable dispensary there?

MINISTER in charge of the PUBLIC HEALTH and MEDICAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Tamizuddin Khan): (a) (i) There is no dispensary at the headquarters of police-station Terokhada, but there are two village dispensaries within the thana, one at Ajogarah and the other at Gazirhat. The dispensary at Ajogarah is in receipt of the usual Government grant.

(ii) Yes.

(iii) The people residing in the thana resort to the village dispensaries for treatment in ordinary cases and to the Sadar Hospital in serious and complicated cases.

(b) The establishment of dispensaries in villages and at thana headquarters falls within the sphere of responsibility of the local bodies concerned. When, however, such dispensaries have been established and are reported to be efficiently managed, Government make annual grants to them in accordance with a fixed scale.

Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that Ajogarah is 20 miles from Terokhada and that Gazirhat is 10 miles from Terokhada, and in view of this fact will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether steps will be taken to establish a Government dispensary at Terokhada?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: I have already stated in my answer that it is not the policy of Government to establish dispensaries themselves in the rural areas. It is the responsibility of the local bodies to establish dispensaries, and when, however, such dispensaries are established and recommended for assistance, Government will in all cases give adequate assistance.

Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if Government will influence the District Board of Khulna to take action in this matter?

Mr. SPEAKER: In that case the question of exercising undue influence will arise.

Misappropriation of money in Nalchira Khas Mahal Office in Noakhali district.

***233. Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state the amount of money misappropriated in the Nalchira Khasmahal Office in the district of Noakhali?

(*b*) The names of the officers responsible for the misappropriation of the amount?

(*c*) Whether the special auditor deputed from the office of the Accountant-General, Bengal, to check the accounts of the Khas Mahal Office and to find out the actual amount misappropriated, held any officer other than a clerk already convicted responsible for misappropriation of the amount?

(*d*) If the reply to (*c*) is in the affirmative, are the Government considering the desirability of taking any action against that officer and of recovering the amount from him?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: (*a*) Rs. 3,372-2-6.

(*b*) The Sessions Court has held Maulvi Sultan Ahmed, Bench Clerk, responsible for the misappropriation.

(*c*) The special auditor held Babu Sachindra Kumar Ganguly, Khas Tahsildar, responsible for slackness in supervision.

(*d*) Departmental proceedings have been drawn up against the said Khas Tahsildar.

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the particular khas tahsildar is still holding the post of khas tahsildar at Nalchira?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Yes, Sir.

Recovery charges in the district of Dinajpur.

***234. Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing, district by district, the surplus amount in

the hands of Government out of the recovery charges realised for the cost of latest settlement operations after meeting all sorts of expenses?

(*b*) How do the Government propose to utilise the surplus?

(*c*) What amount, if any, will be required for paying gratuities and the like, to all the employees of the Survey and Settlement department, at the time they will be thrown out of employment due to postponement of the revisional settlement operation in the province?

(*d*) Are the Government considering the desirability of—

(*i*) reducing the rate of recovery charges in the district of Dinajpur by at least 50 per cent.; and

(*ii*) compensating the cost by contribution from the surplus amount in the hands of Government?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: (*a*) The figures for all the operations recently completed are not available. The surplus recovery in the operations in the following districts has been as noted against each—

	Rs.
Khulna	41,898
24-Parganas	26,636
Murshidabad	...
Birbhum	82,782
Chittagong	93,424
Total	2,44,740

(*b*) The surplus was credited to provincial revenues just as any deficit would have been debited to those revenues.

(*c*) Rs. 4,76,450.

(*d*) No.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there are any districts where there was a deficit?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Probably not, Sir.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Are the districts mentioned in the Hon'ble Minister's answer the only districts where there was a surplus?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: No, there have been surpluses in several districts during the last 35 years.

Mr. SPEAKER: We shall now take up the unstarred questions.

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: On a point of privilege, Sir. On Friday I sent notice of a short notice question——

Mr. SPEAKER: You may raise your point after the unstarred questions are over.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(answers to which were laid on the table)

Expenses of Government for reporting speeches by Intelligence Branch reporters at Pabna.

71. Babu NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRABARTY: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether Intelligence Branch reporters were sent from Calcutta to follow me and report my speeches during my tour in the district of Pabna in the months of December and January, 1938 and 1939, respectively?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative—

(*i*) how many were they;

(*ii*) how many meetings did they attend;

(*iii*) what are the actual expenses of Government upon this agency provided for reporting my speeches and watching my movements during my recent tour; and

(*iv*) whether the services of the Intelligence Branch reporters were requisitioned by the district authority?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: At the request of the district authorities two reporters in the employ of the Home Department of this Government were lent to them for the sole purpose of reporting speeches. The reporters attended six meetings at a total cost of Rs. 166-4.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why a particular member of this House was favoured with such attendance and if others are also similarly permitted to have their speeches reported?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: On the admission of the honourable member himself, he is rather notorious—I beg your pardon—I mean famous for delivering seditious speeches.

Babu NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRABARTY:

পাবনা জেলায় আমি ছাড়া অন্যান্য যে সমস্ত সদস্য আছেন, তাঁরা যখন তাঁদের বিভিন্ন কনষ্টিটুয়েন্সিতে বক্তৃতা প্রদান করেন, তাঁদের বক্তৃতাও কি এইভাবে I. B. তে reported হোয়ে থাকে?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: This was an organised whirlwind tour of the constituency and the subdivision, and I believe that, in view of the strained feeling, the District Officer thought it advisable to have two reporters on whose taking down of the speeches Government could rely.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if there has been any instance in which a member of the House belonging to the Muslim League Party has been similarly honoured by reporters following him?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: So far as we know, they are not famous for delivering seditious speeches.

Babu NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRABARTY:

মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয় অনুগ্রহ কোরে জানাবেন কি তাদের Intelligence Branch এর reporter রা যে report submit কোরেছেন এবং তা থেকে যে যে বিষয় Deputy Inspector-General জেনেছেন তার ফলে পাবনা জেলার প্রদত্ত ঐ বক্তৃতাগুলি দ্বারা কি পরিস্থিতির আবির্ভাব হোতে পারে যে পরিস্থিতির জন্য নাকি কলকাতা থেকে রিপোর্টার পাঠাবার দরকার হোয়েছিলো?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I have not seen the latest report on the subject

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE:

মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয় অনুগ্রহ কোরে বোলবেন কি লীগের মেম্বরগণ যে seditious speech দেন না এ সংবাদ তিনি কি কোরে জানলেন?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that members belonging to the Muslim League Party are famous for inciting one community against another?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I am not aware of it.

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he will consider the desirability of supplying the members of this House with a copy of the speech of which reports are taken by the Intelligence Branch officers?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: If I thought that it would have any beneficent results, I would be glad to do so.

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he will consider the desirability of supplying a copy so that it may be possible to verify the veracity of the report by the reporters?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: If the honourable member wants, I will certainly try to supply the report of some of the speeches delivered by him.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to enlighten us as to which account the expenditure of these reporters has been debited?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Babu NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRABARTY:

আমার যে ছয়টা বক্তৃতা I. B. reporter রা গ্রহণ কোরেছেন, মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয় ঐ বক্তৃতা ছয়টার কপি আমাকে দেবার জন্য ঐ Department কে আদেশ কোরবেন কি?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I will consider this request.

Waiting sheds for witnesses in Civil and Criminal Courts of Mymensingh.

72. Maulvi ABDUL HAKIM: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Judicial and Legislative Department aware that there are no waiting sheds for the litigants and witnesses in the Civil and Criminal Courts at Mymensingh?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, are the Government considering the desirability of taking any action in the matter?

MINISTER in charge of the JUDICIAL and LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Nawab Musharruff Hossain, Khan Bahadur): There is already a witness shed for the Civil Courts in the new Judge's Court compound and another has been provided in the

scheme for a double-storied building for the courts and offices of two Munsifs in the said compound during the current financial year at Mymensingh (Sadar).

My department is not concerned with buildings of Criminal Courts.

Research scholarships for Madrassah scholars.

73. Maulana MD. MANIRUZZAMAN ISLAMABADI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state whether it is in the contemplation of Government to grant research scholarships to the scholars of the Madrassahs under the Board of Education of the Madrassah Alia for higher education and research in Arabic literature in the Universities of foreign countries such as Cairo and Syria and centres of Arabic culture in Europe?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, are the Government considering the desirability of making a provision for the purpose in the next year's Budget?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: (*a*) No such proposal has been received, but I am prepared to consider the matter.

(*b*) The question does not arise.

Gratuitous relief and agricultural loans in the subdivisions of Tippera.

74. Mr. JAGAT CHANDRA MANDAL: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department aware—

(*i*) that floods have destroyed the crops of Brahmanbaria subdivision and Homna, Daudkandi and Matlab police-stations of the Sadar and Chandpur subdivisions of Tippera;

(*ii*) that distress prevails in the said flood-stricken areas; and

(*iii*) that the people of the localities are on the verge of starvation?

(*b*) Are the Government contemplating giving any agricultural loans or gratuitous loans to the people in those areas?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) the amount of such loans; and

(*ii*) how do the Government propose making the distribution?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: (*a*) (*i*) No. The floods have, however, caused some damage to the crops.

(*ii*) Yes.

(*iii*) No.

(*b*) and (*c*) Agricultural loans amounting to Rs. 2,29,118 have already been distributed and further sums as are needed will be sanctioned.

A sum of Rs. 2,500 has been sanctioned for distribution as gratuitous relief but no application has up till now been received from any person qualified to receive such relief.

Loans are being distributed through the local executive officers of Government and the special officers for Debt Settlement work.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any application was received for gratuitous relief from any person; if so, from how many?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: I do not think any application was received.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: From answer (*b*) and (*c*), it appears that "no application has up till now been received from any person qualified to receive such relief." Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the implication is that some applications have been received from those who are not qualified?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: No.

Discharge of non-pleader surveyor commissioners under the High Court, Calcutta.

75. Maulvi MAFIZUDDIN AHMED: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Judicial and Legislative Department aware that the non-pleader surveyor commissioners appointed under Order XXVI, Rule 9 of the Code of Civil Procedure in various Civil Courts under the High Court of Calcutta, have been discharged from their services?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, what are the reasons?

(*c*) Do the Government contemplate redressing their grievances in the shape of the review of the order for gratuity or absorption?

(*d*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware—

(*i*) that the pleader-commissioners charge Rs. 8 per diem as commission fee;

(*ii*) that the commission fee of the non-pleader commissioners was only Rs. 4 per diem; and

(*iii*) that the litigant public is suffering from the higher charge of the pleader-commissioners?

(*e*) Are the Government considering the desirability of reducing the commission fees of the pleader-commissioners?

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur: (*a*) and (*b*) With the framing of the new High Court Rules regarding appointment of commissioners for local investigation in 1935, non-pleader surveyor commissioners known as Civil Court commissioners wherever existing were excluded from the list of persons eligible to execute commissions under Order 26, Rule 9, Civil Procedure Code. The High Court framed these rules after hearing representations including complaints against the work of the Civil Court commissioners and in consultation with Government, Survey-passed pleaders being considered essentially necessary for proper execution of local investigation commissioners of Courts.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) (*i*) and (*ii*) These are the maximum rates and are not applied indiscriminately to all classes of cases.

(*iii*) No, under rule 320, High Court Civil Rules and Orders, the Civil Court has power to keep down fees payable to commissioners in suitable cases.

(*e*) No.

Maulvi MAFIZUDDIN AHMED: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how long these non-pleader surveyor commissioners were working and whether they were working satisfactorily?

Mr. SPEAKER: You cannot ask for any certificate of their work.

Maulvi MAFIZUDDIN AHMED: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how long these non-pleader surveyor commissioners have been working?

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur: I want notice.

Maulvi MAFIZUDDIN AHMED: With reference to (*d*)(*i*) and (*ii*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the minimum rates of fee of these non-pleader commissioners?

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur: Rates depend on the consideration of individual cases by presiding court.

Cottage industries in 24-Parganas.

76. Khan Bahadur A. F. M. ABDUR RAHMAN: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Industries Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) what have the present Government, since they came into office, done for the improvement of the cottage industries in the district of the 24-Parganas, with special reference to Basirhat subdivision;

(*ii*) whether any comprehensive scheme or schemes have been drawn up by the department for the development of the existing industries of the district; and

(*iii*) whether there are any possibilities of opening new industries in different parts of the district for providing employment to the people of the district?

(*b*) If nothing has been done, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what do the Government propose to do in the matter; and when?

MINISTER in charge of the INDUSTRIES DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja Habibullah Bahadur, of Dacca): (*a*) (*i*) Demonstrations in jute, wool and cotton weaving, and tanning were given in several places in the district as a result of which a number of trained students have either started independent business of their own or obtained employment in concerns in their line of work. Two large pottery works have also been started which employ about 400 labour staff besides superior staff. In the Basirhat subdivision particularly a Jute Weaving Demonstration Party and a Peripatetic Weaving School imparted training in the improved processes of manufacture.

(*ii*) No schemes have been specifically drawn up for the district.

(*iii*) Yes; the matter is under the consideration of the Bengal Industrial Survey Committee, recently constituted.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: With reference to part (*ii*) of the question, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why no scheme has been provided by the department for the development of the existing industries? Does not any existing industry stand in need of development?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: Most certainly, but we are awaiting the report of the Industrial Survey Committee.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: [illegible] question, refers to the existing industries and in answer to part (*iii*) which refers to new industries, the answer is "Yes, the matter is under the consideration of the Bengal Industrial Survey Committee"; so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the existing industries are not under the consideration of the Industrial Survey Committee?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: I have already mentioned that the Industrial Survey Committee are not only considering about the old industries but also about the existing industries.

Cultivation of Napier grass in the province.

77. **Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture and Veterinary Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) how much cuttings of Napier grass have been distributed during the last three years; and

(*ii*) how many *bighas* of land with Napier grass are in existence in the province now?

(*b*) Are the people growing Napier grass for their cattle?

(*c*) What propaganda is being made to make it popular?

MINISTER in charge of the AGRICULTURE and VETERINARY DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Tamizuddin Khan): (*a*) (*i*) 11,175,000

(*ii*) Approximately 2,500 *bighas*

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Free distribution of cuttings, issue of leaflets, demonstration in exhibitions and delivery of lectures by Live-stock and Assistant Live-stock Officers and other agricultural staff are being made to popularise the cultivation.

Maulvi ABDUL BARI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the existing number of *bighas* of land under cultivation of Napier grass is sufficient to meet the requirements of the province?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: No.

Maulvi ABDUL BARI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is not, what steps Government propose to take to increase the cultivation of Napier grass?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: I would refer the honourable member to answer to question (c).

Maulvi ABDUL BARI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if there was free distribution of cuttings, demonstration in exhibitions and distribution of leaflets in the district of Murshidabad?

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid, this question does not arise.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the names of the districts in which these 11,175,000 cuttings were distributed?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: These cuttings have been distributed in many districts, and I cannot give the names specifically.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the places where live-stock and assistant live-stock officers have delivered lectures in this connection?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: In innumerable places; I cannot give the names of those places.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if any land in the district of Faridpur is under the cultivation of Napier grass?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Publication of the result of the Reformed Scheme Junior Madrasah Examination.

78. Mr. MAQBUL HOSAIN: (a) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department aware—

(i) that the result of the Reformed Scheme Junior Madrasah Examination was published late in the month of January, 1939; and

(ii) that for such publication of the result the students could not get themselves admitted into the Government schools?

(b) If the answer to (a) (ii) is in the affirmative, are the Government considering the desirability of taking steps for the publication of the result towards the end of the month of December every year?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: (*a*) (*i*) Yes. The reason was that the examination had to be held on 29th and 30th November and on the 1st and 2nd December instead of in the first week of November as usual, on account of the *Ramzan* and *Idul-Fitr*.

(*ii*) No.

(*b*) The question does not arise.

Dismissal, etc., of police officers in the regime of present Subdivisional Police Officer at Brahmanbaria.

79. Maulvi MAFIZUDDIN AHMED: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Police) Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*a*) the number of police officers dismissed, discharged and degraded during the regime of the present Subdivisional Police Officer at Brahamanbaria; and

(*b*) the number of them that are—

(*i*) Muhammadans, and

(*ii*) Hindus?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:

	Sub-Inspector.	Assistant Sub-Inspector.	Head Constable.	Constables.
Muhammadans—				
Dismissed	1	..	..	..
Discharged	..	..	..	..
Degraded	..	1	..	6
Hindus—				
Dismissed	..	..	..	1
Discharged	..	..	..	..
Degraded	..	..	..	5

Failure of jute in Tippera.

80. Maulvi MAFIZUDDIN AHMED: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department aware—

(*i*) that north and west Tippera is a jute-growing area;

(*ii*) that there has been failure of jute this year in the area; and

(*iii*) that there are apprehensions of scarcities and distress in the area?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, what steps, if any, do the Government propose taking to meet the situation?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: (*a*) (*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) The return of the crop varied between about 4 annas and 10 annas of the normal.

(*iii*) Government are informed that conditions of hardship exist and may be accentuated during the periods just preceding the harvesting of the *rabi* and jute or *bhadoi* crops. The situation is under continuous observation by the local officers.

(*b*) Government have already taken steps by the provision of agricultural loans. Up to now a sum of Rs. 2,80,000 has been sanctioned for agricultural loans. Further sums as may be found necessary will be sanctioned.

Government have also allotted a sum of Rs. 2,500 for gratuitous relief.

The inauguration of test works as a measure of relief will also be undertaken should conditions be such that they are likely to be successful. The District Board has set aside a sum of Rs. 5,000 for starting such works.

A District Relief Fund has been started which is working through Subdivisional Committees.

Maulvi MAFIZUDDIN AHMED: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the Government would increase the grant for agricultural loans in the district of Tippera?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Yes. If necessary, Government will.

Privilege question.

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: On a question of privilege, Sir. On Friday last, I sent notice of a short notice question regarding the hunger strike which is going on in the Radha Kissen Cotton Mills at Belur. I expected an answer to my question to-day.

Mr. SPEAKER: Will you please tell me how this is a question of privilege which needs immediate answer?

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: I expected that my question being sent to your office should have been sent to the administrative department concerned after a reasonable time.

Mr. SPEAKER: What is your idea of "reasonable time"?

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: After I had given notice of my question to your office on Friday, it should have reached the administrative department on Saturday.

Mr. SPEAKER: I may say, first of all, it is not a question of privilege. It is a matter of administrative convenience of the department. I think members should realise the difficulties the department is put to during the session. If members insist like this, then I will have to put a stop to the practice by which members put any question and all sorts of things not through the usual course, but hand over in the Chamber. But any way, so far as your question is concerned, as prompt steps as possible have been taken to send your question to the administrative department. I am not prepared to allow any discussion about the administration of my department in this House.

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: I hope Mr. Speaker did not mean, as a threat, that these things will not be allowed This is a matter of life and death of 12 workers and such a question should certainly have been——

Mr. SPEAKER: I am not prepared to allow any discussion

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: At this time I beg to bring to your kind notice the editorial published in the daily "Azad"——

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid, I cannot allow it now. I shall be very glad if you send a copy to me to consider it.

DEMAND FOR GRANT.

29—Police.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 2,14,55,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "29—Police."

Sir, I am aware that in the course of this debate I may be attacked on the ground that the provisions for the police force have swallowed undoubtedly a large proportion of the available revenues and that there is no situation, no state of affairs, no cloud in the horizon which can justify the maintenance of that force at its present strength. But apart from that consideration it is my duty as a Minister responsible to this House for the maintenance of peace and the prevention of crime in this province to indicate, however briefly, the dangers by which that peace is threatened. The previous Governments, not in the same

degree responsible to this House, have been criticized for their failure to inform the public in general and the more responsible sections of that public in particular of dangers which lay ahead. I intend to give no such excuse for the withholding of co-operation by any section of the public. I have remarked before and I desire to emphasize again the fundamental difference which has been made by the introduction of Provincial Autonomy. It will be of no avail to this House to pretend that it now has to deal with an uncontrollable authority exercising functions in which it has no share and for which it bears no responsibility. On the contrary, I, as a member of Government in charge of Law and Order, am answerable to every member of this House and through them to the electorate; my responsibility to the people is shared by every member of this House. For more than a quarter of a century the things that matter to the ordinary citizens, the progressive development of instructed and constructive citizenship, the utilisation of the resources of the province, the increasing amenities of culture, medical aid, and the application of science to the production of individual wealth, have been choked and hampered by successive waves of distrust, intolerance and political strife. It is the irony of fate that two years after the power has passed into our hands there should be in Bengal a vigorous and vocal section claiming to be the apostles of freedom and progress, whose actual message to the people is naught but hatred, strife and destruction. There must, I fear, be some in this House to-day who are reflecting sadly where revolutionary leadership has landed Bengal in the political counsels of India. For my part I believe that if the culture of this people is to be preserved and embellished, if their health, wealth and happiness is to be increased, what they need above all is the grace of a period of protection from communal and political strife in which constructive thinking and constructive action will be possible. A period of calm in which we may plant rather than cut down, may build rather than destroy.

Yet what do we hear and read on every side? Reluctance even to work the constitution which has placed our future in our hands, the setting of class against class and race against race! Constitutional development is to be suspended, reform discarded, the powers and duties vested in this legislature are to be set aside and brought to nothing, and in their place we are offered the blessings of rebellion, revolution, and civil warfare!

This House cannot be unaware that since the inauguration of autonomy in this province we have set at liberty no less than three thousand persons who were in detention for terrorist activities. We did so in the belief that the dangers which led to their incarceration were passed, that as we were authoritatively told, their faith in violence was abjured, and that their activities would be turned into constitutional channels. We felt that we were making a necessary and proper

contribution to the establishment of an atmosphere in which the reconstruction and the building of a new and better Bengal would follow; the dawn after the night of storm. I should be failing in my duty if I did not repeat in this House to-day what I have said and written elsewhere. The secret societies to which those men belonged and by which they were activated remain in existence and intact and are as well organised to-day as ever; they were probably better. Their declared aim is rebellion to be followed by social revolution. Though ostensibly in the ranks of Congress they are no followers of Congress, they are no followers of the creed of non-violence, they owe allegiance to none but themselves. I do not make these assertions on the basis of secret information, nor do I have to draw my own deductions. The purpose is plain, the plan may be read, in the columns of every newspaper.

They openly describe themselves as the vanguard of the revolutionary masses, who stand for a special transformation that will admit of the complete freedom of the masses and of their fullest self-development.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: Do you object to it?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Yes, you wait till I come to the end of it.

With such end in view, they say, they aim at present at a national democratic revolution which will overthrow Imperialism and make India a Sovereign State.

They insist that the subversion of the established order is the object of their struggle for freedom

In the pursuit of their aims

(There were interruptions from the Congress benches.)

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Please listen to me, first.

Mr. SPEAKER: I hope there will be no interruptions. You will get to-day and to-morrow many occasions for interruption. So far as this motion is concerned, I hope you will give him a patient hearing.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: In the pursuit of their aims nothing is sacrosanct. Congress itself is to be made to change its character and become the field of political activity of all the radicals and the revolutionaries. Our young men are told in provocative and militant terms that it is their duty to contribute to the rise of a new revolutionary leadership in order to transform the Congress into a revolutionary party of the Indian people and lead the struggle for freedom in the final stages.

Not only the aim, but the mechanics of the plan are laid bare. The agents of this doctrine including a large proportion of the detenus whom we set at liberty are to keep the people in a revolutionary ferment by fostering and identifying themselves with every possible source of friction and grievance whether it be agrarian, industrial, or among the student community. They are to be found in every district to-day posing as the friends of labour, fomenting discontent, and inciting the peasantry to refuse the payment of lawful dues. Every trade union and local self-governing body is to be captured, every school, college and student organisation penetrated and even every unit of the Congress party is to be activated by professional revolutionaries.

Simultaneously with this permeation of all our institutions, there is to be created a national militia of volunteers, who under the cloak of innocent and non-violent activities are to be trained and used at the proper moment under the old terrorist leaders to paralyse the Government and seize the power.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: That portion is not true.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Sir, perhaps I shall be told that all this is to be tolerated, even welcomed, in the sacred name of national freedom, that the power so seized is to be vested in the toiling masses and the democratic millennium will be an accomplished fact. I wish to warn all responsible people, and in particular the Hindu community, that these men are neither the true apostles of freedom nor the true representatives of the Congress. Their design is to use the Congress for their own ends, and these ends are nothing short of the complete destruction of the existing social and economic system in the interests of what they are pleased to call communism.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: It is a well-edited document.

Mr. SPEAKER: You ought to congratulate yourself on the compliment you have received from Dr. Sanyal.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: If these men are allowed to succeed and to seize the power, there is no class in Bengal that will not be a loser, no interest that will not be adversely affected. The danger is real and the sooner the public recognise it and create public opinion against it, the better for all of us. (A VOICE: "Their success has brought you the office.") I do not think that my friends, the constitutional Opposition in this House, will subscribe to these revolutionary doctrines, although I have not observed them publicly to repudiate them. There have been striking manifestations which must be fresh in the memories of all how Congress itself, to speak of

one great party alone, regards these designs on its integrity. I hope and believe that among the people of this province in every class and caste and creed, there is a substantial element which once alive to the danger will refuse to be mesmerized into accepting as the doctrine of progress the alien and discredited slogans of a dead decade. (A VOICE: "The zemindars are capitalists.") There are signs that thinking men are already conscious of the threat of destruction and organized obliteration which hangs like a storm cloud over all that they hold fair and of good report, and much that bears the age-old sanction of social and religious custom. But it is needful that this apprehension be transformed into active resistance to the programme of destruction.

To my mind this programme in all its stages constitutes not only a menace to the peace and progress of this province, but a direct challenge to the authority of this House. It is for this House, therefore, to ensure that due provision is made to resist that challenge. The preparation of the masses for militant action is no mere paper plan or bogey of my imagination, it is already in progress and has in more than one instance in both the industrial and agrarian spheres led to serious dislocation and loss as well as violence and even bloodshed.

A recent manifestation in the 24-Parganas is an example where as a result of this scheme of propaganda among the cultivators several cases of arson and paddy looting have occurred and a naib was set upon by a mob and beaten almost to death—an almost exact parallel to the murder of Major Bazalgette. Members of this House have still more recently expressed their anxiety to me regarding the effects of the propaganda that is being carried on in the Kishoreganj subdivision.

In many cases the ground is being prepared for a no-rent and no-tax campaign, and the insistence on class and sectional interests is giving rise to communal friction which is a source of grave anxiety. There is the definite danger here that the majority of the present Coalition Government being Muslim, any action which we may take against these threats to the peace and order of the country will be misconstrued and misrepresented as action directed against the great Hindu community. This is not so. The danger threatens Hindu and Muslim alike, and this Government intend to protect both against it. I only hope that members of both communities will be deaf to such insinuation and refuse to be led by communal considerations to encourage forces which aim at overwhelming society as a whole, both Hindu and Muslim, in a common conflagration.

It might have been expected that in these days of democratic advancement the press of this province would have perceived the dangers and warned their readers accordingly. But I have looked with few exceptions in vain for anything but support, either vailed or open, of those whose policy has been violence in the past, and must

infallibly lead to violence in the future. I have no desire either to alarm or to weary the House by continuing a catalogue of impending ruin. I have tried to draw the attention of thinking men to what is going round them. Forewarned is forearmed, and so long as I am entrusted with the duty of preserving the authority of this Government in accordance with the will of this House and of enabling the public to go upon its lawful vocations without fear of interference, I can assure this House that Government will not hesitate to perform its duties. The first of these duties is to obtain from this House means adequate to the task. (Loud applause.)

Babu NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRABARTY: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 2,14,55,000 under the head "29—Police" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the abnormal high expenditure for, and lack of efficiency of, the department.

মাননীয় স্যার নাজিমুদ্দিনের আজকের রাজনৈতিক গবেষণাপূর্ণ প্রবন্ধের জন্য তাঁকে আমি আন্তরিক ধন্যবাদ জানাচ্ছি। বঙ্গীয় গভর্ণমেন্টের এবছরকার আয় ব্যয়ের বরাদ্দ আলোচনার বৈশিষ্ট্য আছে, বৈচিত্র্য আছে, অভিনবত্ব আছে। এতদিন কংগ্রেসদলের সভ্যদের যে—অধিকার প্রায় একচেটিয়া ছিলো, গভর্ণমেন্টের বাজেটের তীব্র সমালোচনা করা, সেই অধিকার থেকে আমরা আজ বঞ্চিত হয়েছি। এতদিন যারা বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলীর সমর্থক বোলে নিজেদের জাহির কোরে এসেছেন, বাজারে বিজ্ঞাপন দিয়ে জানিয়ে এসেছেন, এবার তাঁরাই সেই কঠোর সমালোচনার দায়িত্ব যেচে গ্রহণ কোরেছেন। এবার বাজেট সমালোচনার সময় যে ভাবে, যে ভাষায় এবং যে ভঙ্গীতে, মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলীর তথাকথিত সমর্থক সংযুক্ত দলের নামজাদা সদস্যগণ তাঁদের আক্রমণ কোরেছেন, তাতে কোরে, বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলীর লজ্জা বোলে কোন জিনিষ যদি থেকে থাকে এবং আমার বিশ্বাস তা নেই, তাহলে সে লজ্জাকেও লজ্জিত কোরে তুলেছে। এবারকার বরাদ্দের আলোচনায় এইটেই প্রমাণিত হয়েছে,—এবং বিশেষভাবেই প্রমাণিত হয়েছে যে, বর্ত্তমানে সংযুক্ত দল মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলীকে সমর্থন করে না এবং একমাত্র য়ুরোপীয়ান দল ছাড়া বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলীর নির্জ্জলা স্তাবক আর কেউ নেই।

মৌলবী ফজলুল হক সাহেব খেলোয়াড় লোক। তিনি আগে খেলতেন ১১ জনকে নিয়ে ফুটবল, কিন্তু এবারে খেলছেন সাপ নিয়ে। বিষধর গোখরো সাপের দলকে দাঁত ভেঙ্গে খাঁচায় বন্দী কোরে রেখেছেন, হাতের গুণে আর মন্ত্রের বলে তাদের কতকটা বশও কোরেছেন, তবু তারা মাঝে মাঝে ছোবল মারে, গর্জ্জে ওঠে, এবং ভাঙ্গা দাঁতের গোড়া থেকে বিষ ঢেলে দেবার চেষ্টা করে। কিন্তু বাবু খেলোয়াড় হক সাহেবের হাতের গুণে আর মন্ত্রের বলে তাদের ঐ সব ফোঁসফোঁসানি থেমে যায়। এবং আমরা কৌতুক অনুভব করি এইসব বিষহীন নির্বীর্য্য সাপদের গর্জ্জন আর দংশনের অভিনয় দেখে। ঐ রকমের তীব্র ও তিক্ত সমালোচনা করবার পরও বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলীর পক্ষে ভোট দিতে যে—কোন ভদ্রলোকের চোখে বাধতো, কিন্তু কোন কোন প্রাণীর চোখে চামড়া থাকে না, সাপেদেরও নেই।

পরিষদের সবারই মুখে প্রজার কথা। ঢাকার নবাব থেকে সুরু কোরে কাশিমবাজারের মহারাজা কেউ বাদ যান নি, সবাই প্রজার দুঃখে কেঁদে আকুল।

(Interruptions in Bengali and noise from the Coalition Group.)

Mr. SPEAKER: I hope there will not be any bad precedent set up from my right, unless they desire their own speakers to be disturbed.

Babu NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRABARTY:

কারো কারো মুখে রাম নাম একটু বিসদৃশ লাগে। এঁদের মুখে সেই রাম নামের বহর দেখে আমাদের যদি একটু চমক লেগেই থাকে সেটা কিছু অস্বাভাবিক নয়। আজ আসন্ন বিপ্লবের মুখে বাংলার প্রজাদের প্রতি দরদের নামে দুচারটে মিষ্টি কথা বিপ্লবকে বিলম্বিত করতে পারবে না। এসকল মিষ্টি বুলি বাংলার মুখ প্রজাকে ভুলিয়ে রাখার জন্য বর্তমান মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলীর অপচেষ্টা ছাড়া আর কিছুই নয়। পুলিশ বাজেটের আর সব দিক ছেড়ে দিলেও আমরা দেখতে পাই—তিন লক্ষ টাকা ব্যয়ে প্রজাদের কল্যাণের জন্য থানায় থানায় পাকা দালান উঠছে। কেননা প্রজাদের সায়েস্তা করার জন্য থানায় যখন ধোরে রাখা হয় তখন গরমে তাদের যাতে কোন রকম কষ্ট না হয় সেইজন্য বোধ হয় এ ব্যবস্থা! প্রজারা যখন খেতে না পেয়ে ক্ষুধার তাড়নায় চুরি করে, তখন তাদের থানায় ধোরে নিয়ে ভাল ক'রে খাওয়াবার বন্দোবস্ত করা হয়,—সেখানে তাদের থাকবার কোন অসুবিধা যাতে না হয় সেইজন্যই এসব ব্যবস্থা। মৌন মূক বাঙ্গালীর অস্থিসার বুকে কি কেরি শক্তিশালী রাইফেলের গুলি বসানো যায় তার পরীক্ষা করবার জন্য ঢাকায় যে—সৈন্যবাহিনী রাখা হোয়েছে তারজন্য খরচ হচ্ছে প্রায় সত্তর হাজার টাকা। কেঁদে কেঁদে আজ বাঙ্গালীর চোখের জল ফুরিয়ে গেছে। তাই আজ 'টিয়ার গ্যাস' দিয়ে বাঙ্গালীর শুকনো চোখে অশ্রু বার করার জন্য বরাদ্দ হয়েছে ৩৮ হাজার টাকা। গেল বছর অর্থসচিব মহাশয় আশা দিয়েছিলেন যে, রাজবন্দীদের ছেড়ে দেওয়ার দরুণ আগামী বছরে ৫০ লক্ষ টাকা বেঁচে যাবে। কিন্তু এবারে তিনি জানিয়েছেন যে, রাজবন্দীর ছেড়ে দেওয়ায় ২২ লক্ষ টাকা খরচ কোমেছে। তাছাড়া আর যে কি বাঁচলো তার আভাস তিনি দেন নি। বাংলার সন্ত্রাসবাদ নির্মূল হোয়েছে, চিরদিনের দুরন্ত বাঙ্গালী পুলিশের ভাণ্ডার চোটে ঠাণ্ডা হোয়েছে, কিন্তু তবু দেখছি পুলিশের ব্যয়ের বহর কমে নি বরং লাখ দশেক টাকা বেড়েই গেছে। পুলিশের ব্যয়ের বরাদ্দ ছোটে কাণাকড়ি কমানোও যে মহাপাপ তার সাফাই স্বয়ং অর্থসচিব সঙ্গে সঙ্গেই গেয়েছেন,—

"The department considers that constant vigilance is required to be exercised over the activities of those among them whose avowed object is to cause a violent upheaval of the existing social order and whose method is to sow seeds of disruption amongst the illiterate workers and peasants of this country by insidious and underground propaganda."

আজ আসন্ন বিপ্লবের ভয়ে বাংলার মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলী মুহ্যমান, স্যার নাজিমুদ্দিনের সম্মুখে সেই চিন্তা ছাড়া আর কোন সমস্যাই নাই। তাই তাঁর বক্তৃতায় পুলিশের শত শত গুণের কথা না বোলে—সামনে যে প্রকাণ্ড একটা বিপ্লব আসছে,—যে বিপ্লবের ভয়ে তাঁর সমস্ত অন্তরাত্মা আজ কেঁপে উঠছে, সেই বিপ্লব-ভীতির ভয়াবহতা বর্ণনায় তাঁর বক্তৃতার আগাগোড়া পরিপূর্ণ। কিন্তু এ ভয়টা কাদের? এ ভয় কি বাংলার সমাজের? না, বর্তমান মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলীর? (a member from the Coalition side: এ ভয় আপনাদের অস্তিত্ব রক্ষার জন্য, কংগ্রেসের অস্তিত্ব রক্ষার জন্য) কারণ, একথা তাঁরা নিশ্চয় কোরেই জানেন,—এবং সে সত্য কথাটা অর্থসচিব মহাশয়ের মুখ দিয়ে বেরিয়েছে,—যে, সত্যই বাংলাদেশে অসন্তোষ বেড়ে চোলেছে। অসন্তোষ যে বেড়ে চোলেছে একথা অস্বীকার কোরে লাভ নাই। কিন্তু সে অসন্তোষ আজ সারা বাংলার বুকে বৃটিশের মুক্ত রাজবন্দীরা ছড়ায়নি। এ অসন্তোষ কে ছড়িয়েছে—তা বর্তমান মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলী খুব ভাল করেই জানেন। তাঁরা যদি তাদের গত দুবছরকার অনুসৃত কার্যপদ্ধতির সম্যক পর্যালোচনা করেন তাহলে অনায়াসেই বুঝতে পারবেন যে, তাঁদের নিজেদের অবিমৃষ্যকারিতা, অদূরদর্শিতা এবং অন্তঃসারশূন্য মিথ্যা আশ্বাসই এই অসন্তোষের জন্য দায়ী। বাংলার বুভুক্ষু জনসাধারণের অন্নবস্ত্রের সমাধানের প্রকৃত একটা পরিকল্পনার পরিবর্তে তাঁরা গত দুটী বছর ধরে তাদের শুধু মিষ্টি কথা,

মিথ্যা স্তুতি ও সাম্প্রদায়িক বিষাক্ত উত্তেজনা দিয়ে ভোলাবার চেষ্টা করেছেন। তথাকথিত ইংরেজ কর্তৃত্বের স্থলে এদেশের শাসনতন্ত্র যখন দেশীয় লোকের হাতে ন্যস্ত হলো তখন এদেশের লোকের মনে যে বিরাট আশা ও আকাঙ্খার উদয় হয়েছিল, এদেশের নরনারীর প্রাণে যে একটা নূতন স্বপ্ন রঙিন হয়ে উঠেছিলো, তাদের সে স্বপ্ন ভেঙ্গে গেছে, তাঁদের সে আশা নিষ্ফল হয়েছে, নির্ম্মূল হয়েছে, ধূলিসাৎ হয়ে গেছে। নির্বাচনের প্রাক্কালে এবং অব্যবহিত পর থেকে গত বৎসর ধরে তাদের অবস্থার অবশ্যম্ভাবী পরিবর্ত্তনের আশ্বাস শোনানো হয়েছে কিন্তু সুদীর্ঘ দিন পর তাদের সকল আশার সমাধি হয়ে গেছে। ফলে তারা অসহায়, আরো দুর্ব্বল, আরো বেশী বিপন্ন বোধ করছে। একদিকে বর্ত্তমানের দুঃসহ দুর্দ্দশা, অন্যদিকে ভবিষ্যতের গাঢ় অন্ধকার তাদের আজ বিপ্লবমুখী করে তুলেছে। স্যার নাজিমুদ্দিন যদি ইতিহাসের খবর রাখতেন, তবে দেখতে পেতেন, যুগে যুগে সর্ব্বদেশে ও সর্ব্বকালে এইপ্রকার অসহায় অবস্থার ভিতরেই বিপ্লব জন্ম লাভ করে। বিপ্লব স্বয়ংপ্রকাশ। কেউ জোর করে বিপ্লব সৃষ্টি করতে পারে না। সত্যই—যে বাংলার দুর্য্যোগ ঘনিয়ে আসছে—একথা অস্বীকার করার উপায় নেই। কিন্তু মুষ্টিমেয় রাজবন্দী বাংলার অগণিত নরনারীকে বিপ্লবী কোরে তুলতে পারে না। স্যার নাজিমুদ্দিনের বর্ত্তমান পরিস্থিতির বিশ্লেষণ ইতিহাস, সমাজতত্ত্ব ও রাজনৈতিক তত্ত্বের বিরোধী। মুষ্টিমেয় রাজবন্দী বিক্ষুব্ধ ও বিপ্লবমুখী বাংলার সমাজকে পথ দেখিয়ে দেবার দায়িত্ব গ্রহণ করতে পারে কিন্তু রাজবন্দীরা বিপ্লবকে সৃষ্টি করতে পারে না। রাজবন্দীরা সত্য সত্যই যদি বিশৃঙ্খল বিপ্লবমুখী সমাজের নেতৃত্ব গ্রহণ করে থাকে,—স্যার নাজিমুদ্দিনের তথা সমগ্র ধনী ও পরিশ্রমজীবিদের ধন্যবাদের পাত্র তারা। তা করেছে বলেই আজো ফরাসী বিপ্লব বা রাশিয়ার বিপ্লব বাংলায় অনুষ্ঠিত হতে পারে নি। আজো বাংলার বিক্ষুব্ধ নরনারী অরাজকতার পথে না যেয়ে শুধু মুখের ভাষায় তাদের চরম দুঃখ ও বেদনার কথাই জানিয়ে যাচ্ছে। তবু তাদের সায়েস্তা করবার অজুহাতে এই বিপুল পুলিশবাহিনী রক্ষার ব্যবস্থা মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলীর আত্মরক্ষার জন্যই করতে হয়েছে। এই সঙ্গে আর একটা কথা বোলতে চাই। আত্মরক্ষায়-নিবদ্ধ-দৃষ্টি মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলীর আজ আর অন্য কিছু লক্ষ্য করার অবসর নাই। তাই নিজেদের ক্ষুদ্র গণ্ডী আর গোষ্ঠীর বাইরে যে বৃহৎ কিছু আছে সে কথা তারা চিন্তাও করেন না। কিন্তু তাঁরা সেকথা চিন্তা না করলেও বিশ্বজগৎ অচল হোয়ে, স্থানু হোয়ে বসে পড়ে নেই। আজ বিশ্বের রাজনৈতিক পরিস্থিতির ফলে ইংরেজের রাষ্ট্রশক্তি প্রতি পদে হেয়, দুর্ব্বল ও পর্যুদস্ত হোয়ে পোড়ছে, প্রতি রাষ্ট্রের কাছেই সে আজ লোকবল এবং শ্রেষ্ঠ কূটনীতি সব থাকা সত্ত্বেও হীনবল, হতমান ও বিপন্ন। তার বিশ্বজোড়া মর্য্যাদা, সাম্রাজ্যের দর্প ও দম্ভ, তার নৌবল, লোকবল এবং শ্রেষ্ঠ কূটনীতি সব থাকা সত্ত্বেও ইংরাজ আজ আত্মরক্ষার জন্যই শুধু ব্যাকুল। শাসক ও শাসিতের জীবনের এই পরম সন্ধিক্ষণে ভারতবর্ষ চুপ করে বসে থাকবে না। ৫০ বছর ধোরে যে-ভারতবর্ষ নিজের সর্ব্বস্ব পণ কোরে স্বাধীনতার সংগ্রাম করে এসেছে, কোনরকম আত্মোৎসর্গেই যে কখনো পশ্চাদপদ হয় নি, সে যে কোন মুহূর্ত্তে স্বাধীনতার সংগ্রামে পূর্ণোদ্যমে ঝাঁপিয়ে পোড়তে পারে তার সন্ধান ও সম্ভাবনা স্যার নাজিমুদ্দিন এবং তাঁর বন্ধু ধুরন্ধরেরা না ভাবলেও তাঁদের ইংরেজ প্রভুদের অজানা নেই। সুতরাং দেশের লোকের হাজারো রকম অভাবের দাবি অগ্রাহ্য কোরে ও প্রভুর আদেশে, ইংরাজ প্রভুর মনস্তুষ্টি ও স্বার্থ বজায় রাখবার জন্য রাজবন্দীদের ঘাড়ে দোষ চাপিয়ে পুলিশ ও সৈন্য রক্ষার ব্যয় বাড়াতে স্যার নাজিমুদ্দিন ও তাঁর সহযাত্রীগণের উৎসাহের অভাব থাকতে পারে না। একদিকে নিজেদের শ্রেণীগত স্বার্থরক্ষার দুর্ভাবনা অন্যদিকে প্রভু ইংরাজের ইঙ্গীত,—এর কোনটাই মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলীর উপেক্ষা করবার উপায় নেই। অর্থসচিব অসহায়, স্যার নাজিমুদ্দিন ভয়াতুর। একজনের ইচ্ছা থাকলেও পুলিশের বাবদ ব্যয় সঙ্কোচ করবার কথা মুখে বলবার উপায় নেই; স্যার নাজিমুদ্দিনের সে ইচ্ছারও অভাব। কারণ, যে আঁওতায় তাঁর রাজনৈতিক জীবনের সৃষ্টি তাতে কোরে দেশের জনমতকে উপেক্ষা কোরে প্রভুদের মনস্তুষ্টি সাধনই তাঁর রাজনৈতিক জীবনের চরম ও পরম সাধনা।

এবং তার প্রকৃষ্ট পরিচয় সেদিনকার উচ্চতর পরিষদে কলিকাতা পুলিশ আইন চেলে সাজাবার ব্যবস্থায় সরকার পক্ষের পরাজয় হবার সঙ্গে সঙ্গে স্যার নাজিমুদ্দিন হাতে হাতে দিয়ে দিয়েছেন। তিনি বাঙ্গালী সমাজকে চোখ রাঙিয়ে শাসিয়েছেন যে, যদি তোমরা এখন থেকে ঠাণ্ডা হয়ে না থাকো তাহলে শীঘ্রই আরো উগ্রতর ডাণ্ডার ব্যবস্থা করা হবে। আমরাও স্যার নাজিমুদ্দিনকে দেশবাসীর তরফ থেকে জানিয়ে দিতে চাই যে, যাদের কাছ থেকে তিনি হাতে কলমে জুলুমতন্ত্র শিক্ষা কোরেছেন, সেই চেগার্ট আর এণ্ডারসনের অনুষ্ঠিত গুণ্ডামি ও বর্বর অত্যাচার বাঙ্গালীর বুক থেকে যদি স্বাধীনতার আকাঙ্খাকে দমিয়ে দিতে না পেরে থাকে, তাহলে তাঁর এই চোখরাঙানিতে সেটা পারবে না। আমি জানি, হয় তো তাঁর অত্যাচারের পীত চাবুক এবং নগ্ন বর্বরতা বাংলার বিক্ষত দেহকে আবার রক্তাক্ত করবে। শ্যামল বাংলার সবুজ মাঠ ঘাট বাঙ্গালীর বুকের রক্তে লাল কোরে দেবে, কিন্তু স্যার নাজিমুদ্দিন যেন জেনে রাখেন, সেই রক্তরাঙা পথে আসবে ভারতবর্ষের স্বাধীনতা, সেই রক্তসিক্ত মাঠের বুকে গড়ে উঠবে—ভারতবর্ষের স্বাধীনতার পাদপীঠ। কোন দেশই রক্ত বিনা স্বাধীনতা হয় নাই। কিন্তু কোন জাতি শুধু রক্ত দেয়, আর কোন জাতি বা অঞ্জলে অঞ্জলে রক্ত পান করে থাকে। আজ ভারতবর্ষ রক্ত দেবার জন্য প্রস্তুত। নিজেকে নিঃশেষ কোরে, জাতি তার হৃদ্‌পিণ্ড নিঙড়ে সবটুকু রক্ত ঢেলেও সন্ত্রাসবাদীদের দুরন্ত তৃষ্ণা মেটাবার জন্য ব্যগ্র। ইংরেজ, তাদের বন্ধুবান্ধব, এবং এদেশের বিশ্বাসঘাতকেরা, তাদের শিষ্য উপশিষ্য যারা আছে তারা সবাই জেনে নিক যে সেই রক্তে, সেই টাটকা, তাজা, লাল রক্তের উপর ভারতবর্ষের স্বাধীনতা গড়ে উঠবে। এবং সেই জন্যই বাংলার কবি বহুপূর্বে বোলেছেন—

ওদের আঁখি যতই রক্ত হবে মোদের আঁখি ফুটবে।
ততই মোদের আঁখি ফুটবে।

তাই স্যার নাজিমুদ্দিনকে আজ স্পষ্ট কথায় বোলছি যে, ভয় দেখিয়ে আর লাভ নেই। স্যার নাজিমুদ্দিন terrorism, violence এবং non-violence প্রভৃতি অনেক কথাই বোলেছেন। হাসি পায় শুনে। যাদের সমগ্র অস্তিত্ব violence এর উপর গড়ে উঠেছে, তারাও আজ non-violence এর বুলি আওড়ায়। ইংরেজের সে অধিকার কোথায়? ইংরেজ কি এদেশ অধিকার করেছিল অহিংসা ব্রত অবলম্বন করে? বৈষ্ণব মতে? বৌদ্ধ ধর্ম্মের প্রভাবে? না, যিশুর মন্ত্রশক্তির দ্বারা? তবে? ইংরাজের দুই শত বৎসরের অহিংস নীতির প্রত্যুত্তর হিংস্র নীতিদ্বারা না দিয়ে ভারতবাসী যে আজ অহিংসা নীতি গ্রহণ করেছে, তার কারণ ভারতবর্ষের সভ্যতা, তার শিক্ষা, দীক্ষা, সাধনা, কৃষ্টি ইংরাজের চাইতে উচ্চতর বলে। অনশনক্লিষ্ট ভারতবাসীকে দুর্বল ও নিরস্ত্র কোরে খাঁচায় পুরে রেখে প্রয়োজনমত তাদের কাণের কাছে অহিংসার বুলি কপচানো নিছক পরিহাস ছাড়া আর কিছুই নয়। হিটলার ও মুসোলিনীর কাছে প্রতিদিন হীনতা স্বীকার করতে যার বাধে না, জাপানের কাছে দন্তে তৃণ নিয়ে ক্ষমা চাইতে যার আত্ম-সম্মান ক্ষুণ্ণ হয় না, তার পক্ষেই নিরস্ত্র ভারতবাসীর নিকট অহিংসার বুলি কপচানো সম্ভবপর! দুশো বছর ধরে যারা আমাদের খাঁচায় পুরে রেখে—নির্বীর্য্য কোরে পঙ্গু কোরে দিয়েছে, তাদের কাছ থেকে যখন আঘাত পাই, তারা যখন অপমান করে, তা তবু সহ্য হয়, কিন্তু আঘাত শতগুণ কঠোর হয়ে বাজে তখনই যখন নাকি তাদের শেখানো বুলি আমার দেশের লোকের মুখে থেকে বেরোয়। সূর্য্যের তাপ সহ্য হয়, কিন্তু বালির তাপ অসহ্য। স্যার নাজিমুদ্দিন আর আমার রক্ত এক। একই রক্তের স্রোত উভয়ের ধমনীতে প্রবাহিত। একই সমাজে আমরা জন্মেছি, একই সমাজের কোলে লালিত, একই সভ্যতা, কৃষ্টি ও ইতিহাসের আমরা উত্তরাধিকারী। আমার ও তাঁর উভয়েরই ললাটে দাসত্বের পঙ্ক তিলক অঙ্কিত। নিজের সমাজ, দেশ, জাতি সকলকে পরিত্যাগ করে আজ বিশ্বাসঘাতকতার ও স্বজাতিদ্রোহিতার যে দুরপনেয় কলঙ্ক স্যার নাজিমুদ্দিন নিজের জীবনে বরণ করে নিলেন, তা শুধু তাঁর নিজের জীবনকেই বিড়ম্বিত করবে না, অনন্তকাল ধরে তার সমগ্র ভবিষ্যৎ উত্তরাধিকারকেও এ মসীমলিন কলঙ্ক চিহ্ন বহন করে বেড়াতে হবে। ইংরাজের সুরে সুর মিলিয়ে দেশবাসীর স্বাধীনতার আকাঙ্খাকে তিনি পাপ বলে ঘোষণা করছেন, ইংরাজের

স্বার্থকে নিজের স্বার্থ বলে বুঝে দেশবাসীর দৈন্য ও দুর্দ্দশাকে তিনি বিদ্রূপ করছেন। ক্ষুধিত দেশবাসীর আর্ত্তনাদ তাঁর নিকট রাজদ্রোহ, মরণোন্মুখ জাতির দীর্ঘশ্বাস তাঁর নিকট ষড়যন্ত্র, ক্ষুধাবিক্ষত জাতির গোপন ক্রন্দন তাঁর নিকট গুপ্ত সমিতির গোপন কর্ম্মধারা। আমরা জানি, এমনি একটা মিথ্যার আশ্রয় নেবার আজ প্রয়োজন হয়েছে, আমরা আরো জানি দেশবাসীকে চরম দণ্ডে দণ্ডিত করতে হলে এমনি নির্জ্জলা অসত্যের নাগপাশে তাকে আগে বাঁধতেই হবে। স্যার নাজিমুদ্দিন নূতন সমাজের আদর্শ বুঝতে পারেন না। সে সম্ভাবনা তাঁর জীবনে কোনদিনই দেখা দেবে না। তাঁর রুচি, বেষ্টনী ও কর্ম্মপন্থা সে পথে প্রতিমুহূর্ত্তে অন্তরায় সৃষ্টি করবে। বিশ্বজগত আজ নূতন সমাজ ও রাষ্ট্রের আগমনী আবাহনে উদ্‌গ্রীব—আর তিনি ঠিক সেই একই সময়ে বাংলার বুকে পুলিশরাজ প্রতিষ্ঠা করবার কল্পনায় তৎপর। স্যার নাজিমুদ্দিন ইতিহাস ও রাজনৈতিক উত্থান-পতনের ধারার প্রতি অন্ধ,—নতুবা তাঁর মুখ থেকে একথা বেরুতো না যে গণতান্ত্রিকতা আকাঙ্খা করা কিম্বা দেশবাসীকে সাম্যবাদের আদর্শের প্রতি আকৃষ্ট করা মহাপাপ। নিজে তিনি দেশের মুক্তি চান না,—স্বাধীনতার তিনি মূর্ত্ত প্রতিবাদ, তাই আর কেউ সে পথে যাক্, দেশকে সে পথে পরিচালিত করুক, একথাও তিনি সহ্য করতে রাজী নন্।

স্যার নাজিমুদ্দিন বোলেছেন Secret Society গুলি এখনো অক্ষুণ্ণ রয়েছে..... ..... এ সংবাদ তিনি কার কাছ থেকে কাদের ' report থেকে সংগ্রহ করেছেন? আমি ৯টী বছর কারাগারে ছিলাম। ৫টী বছর আমাকে যে-অভিযোগে এবং যাদের রিপোর্টের উপর নির্ভর ক'রে বন্দী কোরে রাখা হয়েছিলো, সে অভিযোগের এবং সে রিপোর্টের মূল্য আমি জানি। সেইসব reporter, those utterly unreliable creatures —যাদের report এর উপর ভিত্তি কোরে আমার দ্বারা নরহত্যা সম্ভবপর হতে পারে ব'লে charge করা হয়েছিলো, যে—নরহত্যা আমি কখনো কল্পনায় পর্য্যন্ত আনতে পারি না। মানুষের জীবন যে মহামূল্য বলে জ্ঞান করে থাকে, যার কৃষ্টি, শিক্ষা, দীক্ষা, ধর্ম্ম, কর্ম্ম সমস্ত কিছু নরহত্যার বিরোধী—সেই আমার প্রতি নরহত্যার অভিযোগ আনা হয়েছিলো। আমি বলেছিলাম শ্রীযুক্ত নলিনী মজুমদারকে "মশাই, নরহত্যার এই জঘণ্য অভিযোগ আমার (shame ' shame ') উপর আনবেন না। আমাকে বলুন বিপ্লববাদী, বলুন আমাকে বিদ্রোহী,— but that I am a terrorist is an abominable charge against me—an honourable gentleman. এম্নি কোরে এঁরা সব charge দিয়েছেন এবং অনেকের নামেই দিয়ে থাকেন। যে কথা স্বপ্নেও চিন্তা করিনি তারি মিথ্যা অভিযোগে আমার নিরপরাধ জীবনকে কলঙ্কিত কোরতে তাদের একটুও বাধে নি। সরকার পক্ষ বলে থাকেন যে, জজেদের কাছে রাজবন্দীদের কাগজপত্র দাখিল করা হয়ে থাকে এবং বিচারকের মন্তব্য অনুযায়ী নাকি ব্যবস্থা হয়ে থাকে। এটা একটা নির্জ্জলা মিথ্যা কথা। কোনো দেশের কোনো দায়িত্বশীল গভর্ণমেণ্ট এমন সাজিয়ে মিথ্যার বেসাতি করেছে বলে আমার জানা নেই। সভাপতি মহাশয় শুনে অবাক হোয়ে যাবেন যে, আমাকে দুমাস বিনা কৈফিয়তে আটকে রাখবার পর হঠাৎ একদিন আমাকে জানিয়ে দেওয়া হয় যে, পাকাপাকীভাবে আমাকে রাজবন্দী করা হলো। এরও পর একদিন এক ব্যক্তি এসে আমাকে দেখালো যে, আমার বিরুদ্ধে কি অভিযোগ আনা হয়েছে; এর আগে আমি কিছু জানতে পারি নি। অভিযোগের উত্তর আমার কোনো বক্তব্য আছে কি না একথা জিজ্ঞাসা করায় আমি শুধু লিখে দিয়েছিলাম, "দোষী জানিল না কিবা দোষ তার, বিচার হইয়া গেল।" এই বিচার! বিচারের এই মর্ম্মান্তিক ও নির্ম্মম পরিহাস দ্বারা প্রচার করা হয়েছে যে, সূক্ষ্ম বিচারের পর বাংলার মহাপাপীদের বন্দী করে রাখা হয়েছে। এইরকম কোরে একটা organised conspiracy প্রভাবে আমার কপালে নরহত্যাকারী বোলে ছাপ মারা হয়ে গেল, আমার শুভ্র ললাটে আমার অজ্ঞাতসারে মানুষের জীবনের সব চেয়ে হেয় অপবাদের কলঙ্ক লেপন হোয়ে গেল।

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: On a point of personal explanation, Sir. Whatever may be the merits——

Babu NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRABARTY:

সভাপতি মহাশয়, আমাকে বাধা না দিয়ে বোলতে দেওয়া হোক।

Mr. SPEAKER: Sir Nazimuddin, I will hear your explanation after the honourable member has finished his speech.

Babu NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRABARTY:

তারপর ওদের secret information সম্বন্ধেও আমার অনেক জানা আছে। 16, Richi Road এ আমার বাড়ী ছিলো, সেখানে আমাদের আনন্দমঠ সমিতি নামে একটা সমিতি ছিলো। সে সমিতির সেক্রেটারী ছিলাম আমি। একদিন আমার বাড়ীতে কয়েকজন বন্ধুবান্ধবকে নিমন্ত্রণ করেছিলাম। এই সংবাদ পেয়ে পুলিশ আমাদের বাড়ীতে ঢুকতে যায়। আমি তাদের আমাদের বাড়ীতে প্রবেশ কোরতে দিই নি। অন্য একটা বাড়ীর নাম ছিল আনন্দমঠ। সেই আনন্দমঠের একজন সদস্য এক ডাকাতি মামলায় ধৃত হন। পুলিশের প্রমাণ করবার প্রয়োজন হয়েছিল যে, উক্ত সদস্য কোন একটী সমিতির সহিত সংযুক্ত। কাজেই আমাদের সমিতির সভ্য ধরে নিয়ে পুলিশ আমাদের আনন্দমঠের সঙ্গে তাকে জড়িয়ে দিলো। তারপর হিজলি ক্যাম্পের হত্যাকাণ্ড ঘটলো। রাষ্ট্রপতি সুভাসচন্দ্র বসু এবং মিঃ বি, সি, চাটার্জির সঙ্গে আমি গিয়েছিলাম হিজলিতে। ফিরে এসে বাড়ীতে পা দিতেই দেখি আমার গৃহ শ্মশান হোয়ে গেছে। আমার সমস্ত বাড়ী ওলট পালোট। খাট নাই, বিছানা নাই, তোষক বালিশ—সব ধুলো মাখা হয়ে পড়ে রয়েছে। আমার ছেলে মেয়ের জামা কাপড় যা কিছু জিনিষপত্র সব ফেলে দিয়েছে। আমার স্ত্রী বল্লেন যে, ঐসব সর্ব্বনেশে ব্যাপার পুলিশেরা কোরেছে। রাত দুটোর সময় মাতাল কতকগুলি সার্জেন্ট—ভারতবর্ষের নারীর কোন মর্য্যাদা যারা জানে না, ভারতবর্ষের নারীত্বকে, সতীত্বকে, মাতৃত্বকে যারা শ্রদ্ধার চোখে দেখতে কস্মিনকালেও শেখেনি, সেইসকল নরপিশাচ বৈদেশিক গুণ্ডাদের হোমে কুকুরের মতন লেলিয়ে দেওয়া হয়, বাংলার পবিত্র অন্তঃপুরে, সমগ্র দেশকে, সমস্ত জাতিকে অপমান কোরে—জাতির স্বাধীনতার আকাঙ্খাকে দমিয়ে দেবার জন্য। আমি জানি এসব কথা এখানে বলে জেনা বনে মুক্ত ছড়ানোর মত কোনই লাভ হবে না। কেননা এসবের প্রতিকার করবার সাহস স্যার নাজিমুদ্দিনের নেই।

আজ আমি এবিষয়ে কোন বক্তৃতা দেবার জন্যে প্রস্তুত ছিলাম না। ভেবেছিলাম অন্য বিষয়ের উপর বোলবো। কিন্তু সমগ্র বাংলাদেশ আবার নূতন কোরে মুক্ত রাজবন্দীদের গুপ্ত সমিতিতে ছেয়ে গেছে আতঙ্কের যে-রকম লোমহর্ষক চিত্র পরিষদের সভ্যদের সমক্ষে স্যার নাজিমুদ্দিন তাঁর বক্তৃতায় ফুটিয়ে তুলেছেন তারি ফলে আমি এই বক্তৃতা দিতে বাধ্য হলাম।

আজ বাঙ্গালীর জীবনের ব্যর্থতা দেখে, বাঙ্গালীর জীবনের পরিহাস দেখে, এবং সমগ্র ভারতের যে organised conspiracy against Bengal বিশেষ কোরে সেইটে লক্ষ্য কোরে বাঙ্গালীর অন্তর আজ ব্যথিত, ক্লিষ্ট ও বিষাদকাতর। আজকে বাঙ্গালী জাতির এক শ্রেণীর প্রতি আর শ্রেণীকে বিদ্বিষ্ট কোরে তুলে সাম্প্রদায়িকতার লেলিহান শিখায় ইন্ধন জোগানো মহাপাপ বলেই বিবেচিত হবে। আজ সকলের সমাহিত হোয়ে নূতনভাবে চিন্তা করবার দিন এসেছে। আজ আমরা সত্যই হাঁপিয়ে উঠেছি। ব্যর্থ সমালোচনার দিন আর নেই। আজ বাংলার চিন্তাশীল ব্যক্তিমাত্রেরই চিত্ত বাংলার ভবিষ্যৎ ভেবে আকুল, অধীর ও উদ্‌গ্রীব হোয়ে উঠেছে। আজ বিশেষ কোরে বাঙ্গালীমাত্রেরই এইটে উপলব্ধি করবার সময় এসেছে যে, বাংলার নিজস্ব ব্যাপারে অবাঙ্গালী জিন্না আর রাজেন্দ্রপ্রসাদে কোন পার্থক্য নেই। তারা যে বাংলার ভাগ্য নিয়ে খেলা করে, পরিহাস করে—বাংলাকে ছোট কোরে দেখে—জাতিকে এ কলঙ্কের হাত হোতে আজ মুক্ত করবার দিন এসেছে। বাংলার কর্ম্মক্ষেত্র বহু বিস্তৃত। বাঙ্গালীর সৃষ্টিশক্তি অগাধ। বাংলার কর্ম্মক্ষমতা বিপুল। সেই বিস্তীর্ণ কর্ম্মক্ষেত্রে বাঙ্গালীর সৃষ্টিপ্রতিভা সার্থক হোক, কার্য্যকরী হোক, বাংলাকে নতুন কোরে গোড়ে তোলবার বৃহত্তম সাধনায় বাঙ্গালী আজ সিদ্ধিলাভ করুক।

Mr. SPEAKER: Sir Nazimuddin, what is your personal explanation?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Sir, whatever may be the merits or demerits of secret information, as far as my speech of to-day is concerned, Sir, whatever I have stated is not based on secret information, but is based on what has appeared in the newspapers and the speeches made by prominent men belonging to the Revolutionary party.

Babu RADHANATH DAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 2,14,55,000 for expenditure under the head "29—Police" be reduced by Rs. 100, to raise a discussion regarding heavy expenditure in the department.

Sir, in my cut motion, I want to draw the attention of the Government to the heavy expenditure that Government incurs under the head "Police" every year and in the present Budget. First of all, Sir, I should like to say that for the past two years Government has shown its reluctance to minister to the needs of the province and accede to the demands that have been made by the general public of Bengal on public platforms as well as by legislators—both within and without this House.

Sir, before the present Government came into office, the expenditure that used to be incurred under this head was heavy, just as it is now in the present Budget But the then Government was not at all a representative body, whereas the present Government is said to be representative, as it owes its existence to the majority of the people of Bengal The present Government, in the opinion of its supporters, is said to be a popular Government, that is to say, it is a Government of the people, for the people, by the people. But, when we find that such a heavy amount of Rs. 2,14,55,000 is spent under the head "Police" against public opinion, we cannot but feel sorry; and so the thing is that the present Government, though it calls itself to be a representative one, is not so in the true sense of the term

Coming to the Police Budget what we find at a glance is this, that in the present expenditure for the budget of 1939-40, there has been an increase of Rs. 9,64,000 more than the revised estimate for the year 1938-39. Now, Sir, there are about—I am speaking from the Red Book—nine heads under the head "Police" and among those nine heads, I see that under seven heads, there has been an increase than the revised estimate of 1938-39. Under the head "Presidency Police," there has been an increase of about Rs. 73,000 more than the revised estimate for the year 1938-39, and under all other heads also there has been an increase and specially in the District Executive Force. In the District Executive Force, I see that there has been an increase of

about Rs. 6,15,000 more than the revised estimate of the year 1938-39. Now, Sir, under these two heads, there has been no doubt a greater increase than the revised estimate for the year 1938-39 and under almost all other heads and sub-heads, there has been made increases leading to the total increase under the head "Police," as I have already said for the budget estimate of 1939-40, of about Rs. 9,64,000.

Now, Sir, coming to more details, what I see is this In the Presidency Police, there has been allotted a substantial amount of money by way of emoluments to the officers Now, in this respect, I cannot but mention some of the recommendations that were made by the Swan Committee which have been totally ignored by the Government.

Mr. SPEAKER: I must adjourn the House now You may finish your speech after the adjournment

(The House was then adjourned for 15 minutes)

(After adjournment)

Babu RADHANATH DAS: Mr Speaker, Sir, I was speaking about the special items under the Presidency Police, namely, about the superintendence. In the item "Superintendence", I see that there has also been made an increase above the revised estimate of the year 1938-39, and it amounts to about (though it is not so big an amount, still there is some increase) Rs 8,300 In this way I see there have been many increases in all the sub-heads, and though those increases are not so large in amount, still I should draw the attention of the Hon'ble Ministers that those little increases, in all the sub-items taken together have amounted to a large sum of Rs 9,64,000

Coming to the sub-head "Calcutta Police" under the Presidency Police I see that there has been an increase in almost all the sub-items. In "Inspectors," in the "Pay of establishment" an increase has been made in the amount above the figures of the last budget, and the total of this budget (I mean the budget estimate for the year 1939-40) has thereby amounted to Rs 22,44,534 In all other items such as "Rewards," "Contract contingencies," "Arms," "Accoutrements and Ordnance stores" and "Clothing charges" there have been increases. In this connection I cannot but mention that the total pay for the establishment is very excessive, and I would like to ask the Government to try their level best to reduce it to as much extent as it can.

With regard to the cost of passages, I would like to say that unlike the items in the budgets of the previous two years, an innovation has been made in this budget which costs about Rs. 19,000.

Another thing to which I would like to draw the attention of Government is that every year there have been clothing charges and also charges

for the purchase and maintenance of motor cars and bicycles. Is it a fact that Government throws away all the cars which are one or two years old and purchases new ones every year?

I also like to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that the pays of officers of the Calcutta Police, I mean the Presidency Police, as well as the District Executive Forces, are so high that they cannot be compared with those of the other provinces.

The next thing to which I should like to draw the attention of Government is the expenditure incurred under the head "Police" in other provinces. If the expenditure of the other provinces is compared with that of Bengal so far as police expenditure is concerned, there will be a striking contrast no doubt, and I think the Government of Bengal should try their level best to adjust the expenditure of Bengal under the head "Police" with those of the other provinces under the same head.

What we see in the province of Bombay is this: The expenditure on "Police" is about Rs. 1 crore 40 lakhs. In Bengal it is about Rs. 2,32,44,000 If we compare the expenditure incurred on "Education" in Bengal with that of Bombay, we will see that the expenditure of Bengal Government for "Education" is comparatively much lower than that of the Bombay Government. For the year 1939-40 the expenditure incurred by the Bombay Government towards the head "Police" is Rs 1,43,71,000 and for "Education" Rs 2,00,92,000. Let us see what the Bengal Government is going to spend under this item "Education" in the next financial year. Under this head the Government of Bengal will spend only Rs. 1,56,59,000, whereas under the head "Police" it will spend Rs. 2,32,44,000. Thus, here, in Bengal, the expenditure on "Police" is much more than on "Education," whereas in Bombay, the expenditure on "Police" is much lower than that on "Education."

In Madras there has been a great increase in expenditure on "Education" as compared with "Police." Under the head "Education" the Government of Madras spent about Rs. 2,56,00,000 and under the head "Police" they spent Rs. 1,61,00,000 in the year 1936-37.

In the United Provinces they spend Rs. 2,05,00,000 on "Education" and on "Police" Rs. 1,64,00,000.

In Orissa, though it is a very small province and its revenue is very small, yet they spent in the year 1936-37 on "Education" 25¾ lakhs and on "Police" about Rs. 23¼ lakhs.

(Here the member having reached his time-limit, resumed his seat.)

Mr. P. BANERJI: I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 2,14,55,000 under the head "29—Police" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about police administration, with particular reference to inefficiency, increased expenditure, bribery and corruption.

I must tell the Hon'ble Minister that during the last two years I did not make any reference whatsoever to the police administration, because I thought that the Hon'ble the Home Minister must be given a respite in order to set his own home in order. I am simply surprised not to find anything new in his speech. All that I noticed was that he was repeating his master's voice with the training that he received from the steel frame. All that he said we heard from the year 1934 from the Hon'ble Sir William Prentice and Sir Robert Reid.

I would not go into details to criticise the grants, as there is very little time at my disposal and as Mr Narendra Narayan Chakrabarty has amply replied to the remarks made by the Hon'ble Minister. Mr. Chakrabarty deserves our congratulation for that. Now, Sir, he was talking of the activities of the secret societies and ramifications of these organisations in the countryside And therefore after releasing these political prisoners, Government desire to have their hands strengthened in order to put down these secret societies by more stringent measures. This is only a myth—there is something else behind. Reading between the lines, what we notice is that the Hon'ble Minister wants to crush the legitimate movement in the countryside and that seems to be his sole intention This point has already been amply dealt with by Mr. Narendra Narayan Chakrabarty The warning that was given in the Upper House by the Hon'ble the Home Minister has also been met here by Mr. Chakrabarty.

Now, Sir, the Hon'ble Minister was talking of the murder of Major Bazalgette, but I should remind him that there was nothing political in that. If he cares to look into the real facts of the murder of Major Bazalgette, he will find that it is nothing but retaliation pure and simple. If you attempt to kill a man, he will naturally try to protect himself. That is the training we have received—that is the lesson we have learnt —from Europeans. Their motto is "tooth for tooth, eye for an eye, dead body for a dead body"

As has been rightly pointed out by Mr Narendra Narayan Chakrabarty, due to the activities of the Congress, we have succeeded in seeing that the members of the services are no longer here in this House, but to our regret we find that they are pulling the wires from behind. We are not by any means satisfied with this position. We want sooner or later—sooner and not later—to drive these foreigners who stand in our way of freedom from our land. That is our ambition. We want complete freedom. We say from our housetops that freedom must be achieved. No nation ever ruled another nation for all times to come—it therefore stands to reason that the British have not come to rule over India for all times to come. We are trying to drive them out of India as early as possible, but they are trying to perpetuate our slavery through the weaknesses of small men like the Hon'ble Sir Nazimuddin. That is the point.

As there is not much time at my disposal, it is very difficult to criticise the Budget in detail. I want to raise only three questions: The first is bribery and corruption. I am surprised to find to-day that cases of bribery and corruption are on the increase. You are well aware, Sir, that for the last 8 years I had brought to the notice of this Government the iniquities of the department, as a result of which there was considerable improvement, but that improvement is no longer to be seen, and if I go into details, I shall be able to point out many things about which much can be said in respect of bribery and corruption. But I will only say this much that though the Government claim that to-day the number of cases is decreasing, it is not decreasing; on the contrary, it is increasing. From the figures of cognizable offences I can say that cases of bribery and corruption are increasing by leaps and bounds. In the mufassal thanas the police officer would not register cases unless he was bribed. I may say for the information of the Hon'ble Minister that about 25 per cent. of the cognizable cases are not at all recorded and that for the cases that are recorded they have to pay a minimum of one rupee; otherwise they will be turned out of the thana! This is the state of affairs not only in Calcuta but all over Bengal This is a matter which requires looking into by the Hon'ble the Home Minister

Now, Sir, the other day, on the 17th instant, the Hon'ble the Chief Minister was not ashamed to say that the Khilafat Committee and the Muslim League kept the peace and tranquillity of the country. If that is so, what is the use of this Ministry? The Hon'ble the Home Minister might as well abdicate in their favour. But what are the facts? The facts tell a different tale. If we go into details we find that instead of these people maintaining peace and tranquillity, they are causing violence and strife with the help of the dishonest police. I may give one or two instances for the information of the House. One Muhammadan boy, a student of the Daulatpur Hindu College, holding a particular opinion, that is, the opinion in favour of the Projas, at a meeting supported Mr. Nausher Ali and, you will see, he met with a sorry fate. He was turned out of the Muslim hostel. He appealed to the Superintendent but with no effect, as the Superintendent joined hands with the hostel boys. Not being satisfied with that, they assaulted him and turned him out. They also directed that he should not be allowed to take his meal. He went to the thana, but the thana officer refused to register his complaint. He at once went to Mr. Abdul Hakim of Khulna and got a letter from him to one of the thana officers. The thana officer said that he could not do anything lest he should lose his job! He said that he could not go against the League, because it was the Government that supported the League party, and as such the police could not go against the League. He then approached the Principal who also said to the boy that as many persons were against him, it would be better for him to quit the hostel. The boy did not get relief from anywhere. He was

in this sad plight for two days without food. Next morning he went into the village, and saw about 75 peasants—all Muhammadan labourers passing. He narrated the whole story to them. Then these labourers brought these things to my notice. Subsequently, with the help of these labourers, he went to the hostel and got his belongings, books, clothing, etc. Afterwards the nefarious activities of the Leaguites came to a standstill. There the League party at once was dissolved——

Mr. SPEAKER: The House is discussing the Police Budget. I hope you will kindly set up a precedent for not dragging in party politics in this discussion.

Mr. P. BANERJI: I would cite another instance and finish. One Mr. Fazle Karim of Dacca who felt so much for this boy left the League along with 300 others in a body and joined the Congress. What happened afterwards? The members of the League, backed as they were and are by the police in the countryside, set fire to the house of this Fazle Karim. Not only this: I have a letter in my hand to show that he was threatened with murder. I shall give it to you, if you want, later on. If you like, I am prepared to place the whole facts and figures of the case before Sir Nazimuddin. That is the state of affairs in the countryside. Sir, it is for the Hon'ble Minister to say whether he knows these things, or whether these things are being done, at his connivance, by persons who are the supporters of Government. These are matters which it is necessary for Government to enquire into at once. Otherwise, in the countryside we find that life is absolutely miserable and there is no possibility of getting any help from the police.

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit, resumed his seat.)

Mr. I. C. KENNEDY: Mr Speaker, Sir, in the speech which he has made this evening in support of the proposed police expenditure, the Hon'ble the Home Minister has drawn a disquieting picture of the various subversive movements which are disturbing the tranquillity of Bengal, and I think that this House will be grateful to him for presenting these facts so clearly before it. But I suggest that they call for a wider audience—no less than the general public of Bengal.

We, Sir, of the European party, feel that the time has come for very plain speaking on this subject, for we cannot but apprehend that, unless wide and continual publicity is given to these subversive movements, and the comprehensive organisation which is behind them, and unless public opinion is enlisted on the side of law and order and progress, general chaos must result in Bengal, and the happiness and prosperity of its inhabitants be seriously jeopardised.

Government must act fearlessly in this matter and expose the designs of those who are poisoning the minds of the youths, the peasants and the industrial workers, with an insidious propaganda of hatred and contempt for all established forms of law and order.

Hon'ble members of this House do not require to be told that all is not well with the body politic of Bengal—the proof is only too convincing, and may be seen in the outbursts of unrest which are sweeping over youths, peasants and industrial workers. Regular and carefully timed, these outbursts of disaffection are not haphazard, but are undoubtedly manifestations of a greater movement which seeks deliberately to produce mass disaffection and chaos. I would remind the honourable members that in all communities there are people who require unrest and chaos for the fulfilment of their own self-interested ends. If such is the case in Bengal, then the sooner the citizens of the province are awakened to a sense of their danger, the better it will be for the peace and prosperity of all.

Those whom it is the Government's duty to warn first and foremost are the parents and guardians of the youth of the province, for I feel, Sir, that the most disquieting feature of the present situation is that the youth of Bengal—the men of to-morrow—are learning to have a misguided admiration for indiscipline and the flouting of authority. Students and schoolboy movements, quasi-political in their nature, have become so common in Bengal that they now occasion nothing but a passing interest. These movements, Sir, are alien to the nature of boyhood or youngmanhood, and there is no lack of evidence to show that sinister influences are at work systematically poisoning these young minds. It is sad, Sir, to reflect upon the future of this province if its citizens are to be moulded for their responsibilities in an atmosphere of indiscipline and contempt for authority, and a drastic cleansing of the education system is required to purge it of this menace. A great responsibility rests upon the parents and guardians of the youths of Bengal, and it is imperative that they should be warned of the dangers with which they have to contend.

Then again, Sir, we find the same spirit of indiscipline among certain sections of the rural population of the province—the peasants who, as honourable members of the House have frequently reminded us, are the backbone of the country. These folk are not by nature politically-minded, nor do they normally respond to the time-worn slogans of political malcontents. What the Hon'ble the Revenue Minister has described as a "no rent mentality" is appearing to-day in some parts of rural Bengal, and in the repudiation by the cultivators of their rightful rents and taxes there is to be seen further evidence of insidious and systematic propaganda. Here again, Sir, there is much need for the truth to be brought home to these people, and a

vigorous counter-propaganda directed against persons who, for their own selfish ends, preach false doctrines which, if carried into effect, must inevitably mean ruin and unhappiness for so many millions of hardworking folk.

Those of us, Sir, who are in close touch with the industrial life of Bengal, know only too well the spirit of unrest and insubordination which is being spread among the workers in the mill areas by so-called leaders of labour. These persons, Sir, whose true colours have been seen in the recent voting at Tripuri, are urging the workers to revolt against the existing order of things, and are promising them as a reward for so doing, a Utopian existence, which they know well it is impossible to realise. Irresponsible strikes, and the misery and privation they occasion to ignorant and misdirected workers, are common occurrences in Bengal to-day, and do nothing but harm to the prosperity and well-being of the province in general

The bulwark of any country against the forces of subversion and disorder lies in the sanity of the middle classes, and I would call upon the middle classes of Bengal, and in particular our friends of the Opposition, of whose party these middle classes are the mainstay, to set their faces sternly against the false doctrines and shibboleths of professional revolutionaries whose aims are purely those of self-interest. Let the middle classes of this province not be deluded into thinking that they can control the forces of disorder at any time—they cannot. Those, Sir, who sow the wind often reap the whirlwind. I would again urge the Hon'ble the Home Minister to arrange some means of keeping the middle classes constantly informed of the danger which threatens them.

It is indeed fortunate that Bengal possesses an efficient and loyal police force, ably supported by the Hon'ble the Home Minister, and I trust that this House will take no steps which will impair in any way the work which is being done by that police force in the interests of every individual in the province. But, Sir, no police force, however efficient, can maintain peaceful conditions in any country unless it is supported by the people generally, and I feel that if the Hon'ble the Home Minister gives continuous and widespread publicity to these elements of disorder, he will awaken in the people of Bengal, a realisation of the dangers which threaten them, and will evoke from them the sympathetic support which has so long been withheld

Let it not be forgotten that those who support the law are, and must be, the law-makers—the law-givers; those who would break it are but its slaves.

Mr. MANORANJAN BANNERJEE: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 2,14,55,000 for expenditure under the head "29—

Police" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the change of present system of recruitment and administration of the police force.

Sir, my information is, but I speak subject to correction by the Hon'ble the Home Minister, that officers of the rank of Sub-Inspector of Police are not recruited through the agency of the Public Service Commission. The salary that they get from Government is pretty high, and there is no reason why these officers should not be recruited by the Public Service Commission. If it is necessary to reserve a few posts for the minority community, this can be done, but all of them must pass through certain minimum tests. As regards the recruitment of constables, I congratulate the Hon'ble the Home Minister on his attempt to confine the recruitment to the children of the province. But I must point out to him that the whole of the constabulary can be recruited from Bengalis. In these days of unemployment, any number of men can be recruited from amongst the Bengalis—not only from lower class Hindus, but even from amongst the educated classes. It is a well-known fact that there are large numbers of people who are too eager to accept the appointment of constable in these days of unemployment. I cannot understand, Sir, why the armed section of the police is monopolized by people who are non-Bengalis Our agriculturists are famous for their martial spirit. They are now being famished in the villages of Bengal A beginning should at once be made to recruit these agriculturists for the armed section of the police.

Now, Sir, as regards the administration of the Police Department, the Hon'ble the Home Minister has complained that the people are not in the habit of co-operating with the police Sir, co-operation is only possible between honest people. My friend Mr. Banerji has given the House examples of certain cases of bribery and corruption amongst the police force. Unless the Hon'ble the Home Minister removes corruption and bribery from the police force, it is impossible for honest citizens to co-operate with the police. Sir, the ordinary people are afraid of the police. It is not possible to get any work done by the police officers except by promising rewards It may be that the illiteracy of rural Bengal is responsible for this state of affairs. Even nowadays the police think that their only business is to keep surveillance over detenus and Congress-workers and to harass them in various ways! I speak from personal knowledge when I say that innocent detenus and Congress-workers are dogged by the police, so much so that they find it very difficult to carry on their ordinary avocations of life. I had occasion to refer to the Hon'ble the Home Minister specific cases of such harassment, and I thank the Hon'ble the Home Minister that he took steps to enquire into these cases, but, pray, what percentage of the innumerable cases of such harassment come to our knowledge and are inquired into? There are thousands of cases that go unnoticed.

I know of cases in which young, released political prisoners opened shops in the bazars, but the police officers warned them and asked them to go away after closing their shops; otherwise, they said they would be in trouble. If these people are not allowed to go on with the normal, ordinary and peaceful avocations of life, then how can you expect them to have a better mentality and outlook?

Sir, Sir Nazimuddin has given us a horrible picture of the existence of the revolutionary party in this province. It seems to me that Sir Nazimuddin, like every other member, does not really believe that there is any revolutionary party or secret society in Bengal. The reason why Sir Nazimuddin has given such a picture to this House is only to support a Budget which amounts to more than Rs. 2 crores and 14 lakhs. A large number of detenus has been released, and thus the cost of the Police Department can be reduced by at least half a lakh of rupees. But the budget figures for 1939-40 do not show any decrease. To justify this huge amount of expenditure Sir Nazimuddin has given a lurid picture of the existence of the revolutionary party in Bengal. Sir, he said that the Congress-workers are working amongst the labourers and the agriculturists, for bringing about a revolution, but that is not a fact. They are only organizing public opinion in order to bring pressure to bear upon Government for the redress of their grievances. They are not trying to foment rebellion amongst the masses, but they are only trying to bring to the notice of Government the grievances from which they suffer. But, Sir, petitioning only will not do, because the authorities do not care a fig for the petitions! Thousands of petitions have been made, but to no effect. Therefore, the workers have organized themselves in order to enlist the support of public opinion which is perfectly constitutional.

Sir, my European friends have said that in Bengal there is a spirit of insubordination and that the revolutionary spirit is abroad amongst the young men. Whenever any movement is started for the redress of the grievances of the poor people, the vested interests would always scent danger in that movement (Cries of "Hear, hear!"), and these vested interests would not hesitate to bring pressure to bear on the Government for keeping their interests intact.

Therefore, Sir, I earnestly request the Hon'ble the Home Minister to change his mentality and of the police, to make them approximate to the London Police in their attitude towards the public. In that case he will find that the people of this province will not only co-operate with the police, but will also come to love them.

With these few words, Sir, I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

Mr. ABUL HOSSAIN AHMED: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I shall speak on the police problem as a representative of the public with 40 years' experience of the details of the administration of this department behind me. I may, therefore, presume to hope that my remarks would be carefully considered by those whom they concern.

Two principles I consider should be kept in view in reorganising this department: (1) security of the general public, and (2) the interest of the people of our motherland, for charity should really begin at home. So far as the policemen are concerned, they are at present placed under the training of uncouth subedars and jamadars brought up under the old traditions of "zulum" and "zabardasti," and soon acquire these undesirable traits from their instructors. Their training should, therefore, be placed in the hands of a better set of men who do not have these antecedents. These constables are the guardians of the liberty and honour of the ordinary citizen and, therefore, every care should be taken to ensure that they discharge their duties in a manner worthy of a civilized and constitutional country. These constables get their training in the so-called training schools. These schools are run on old and antiquated lines, although everything else has radically changed in recent times. I would, therefore, ask the Hon'ble Minister in charge to apply his mind to this pressing problem and prepare a constructive scheme for the better training of policemen, keeping in view the altered conditions of the country.

The Sub-Inspectors under the present system are so much under the influence of Inspectors of the old school that it is very difficult for them to bring a new spirit into the service. Care should, therefore, be taken to provide opportunities for the new recruits in the officers' cadre to develop on new lines; so that within a reasonable time the spirit of the service may really undergo a change for the better. We really want a new spirit and a new outlook in the guardians of the public peace, and its introduction should not certainly be beyond the range of practicability for the worthy members who adorn the Ministerial Bench at present. For the improvement of the morale of the service, I would take the liberty to suggest that a certain number of Sub-Deputies with good records may be drafted into the Police Service as Inspectors. It may be necessary, to effectuate this object, to raise the position of the Inspectors, and this should be done in view of the advantages that are likely to accrue from it both to the service and to the general public. We really need fresh blood in the service and a change of outlook. The innovation I am advocating will, I am sure, go a long way in bringing this about. While on this subject, I may also say that the members of the Police Force, specially the constables, are at present subjected to a very rough and rude treatment by their superiors, and this has become a standing grievance among the members of the force. I would advise the Government to issue peremptory instructions to the

superior officers to bring about a change for the better in this particular matter without delay.

As regards the superior appointments, I would like to say that the Deputy Superintendents have now really become an anomaly. The work they do may more efficiently be done by the Assistant Superintendents, as the latter have better prospects of promotions. I would therefore advise that so far as the future is concerned the recruitment of Deputy Superintendents should be discontinued and that the work of such officers should be made over to Assistant Superintendents of the service.

It is desirable that these Assistant Superintendents should be recruited in this country from qualified Indians as Indianisation should be our goal.

In former times the Inspector-General of Police used to be a member of the Indian Civil Service. Being free of police traditions and preconceptions, he used to look upon his duties with a fresh outlook and being in that advantageous position he could easily detect any defect and shortcomings that might have been weakening the efficiency and utility of the service. I had opportunities of talking to various policemen of this province, and I can safely say that there is a general desire among the Indian elements in the service for a change of the nature I am advocating. I hope the Hon'ble Minister in charge will not fail to take note of this fact.

As regards the housing of policemen, in view of the fact that their efficiency entirely depends upon their health and physical fitness, I would not advise any drastic retrenchment in this matter. The physical well-being and the comfort of the police force should always be a matter of primary concern of the Government.

I would not advise the total abolition of the post of Deputy Inspector-General, because that, after all, is a prize post which is looked forward to by the senior officers and its abolition would be a source of great disappointment to them and might take away the incentive to work.

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit, resumed his seat.)

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, to-day is the tenth anniversary of the famous Meerut conspiracy case, and it may be said to be famous in the sense in which Sir Nazimuddin used the word "famous" to-day. It was a huge farce, and it cost the rate-payers, the people of this country, near about Rs. 50,00,000 and to-day when I listened to the speech of Sir Nazimuddin I was strongly reminded of the opening speech of the late Langford James. I was one of the accused in that case. He depicted us as anti-capitalists, anti-God,

anti-religion, anti-nation, anti-family and in fact anti-everything; and at the end of his rhetorical height, he looked round, and there were many Congressmen and Nationalist leaders in the court, but there was no approbation from anybody except the few Europeans who were present there. To-day this rhetorical height of Sir Nazimuddin met with the same fate. There are the supporters of Sir Nazimuddin on that side. But they were absolutely silent. (Cries of "No, no" from the Coalition Benches.) There might have been one or two; but there was no uproarious applause as was witnessed in the European side. Sir Nazimuddin appealed to the Hindu community but they sat here sullen: the only cheers that met his speech were from the European masters. Mr. Speaker, Sir, at that time also there was an attempt to suppress the labour movement by means of conspiracy of people like Sir Nazimuddin from different provinces, and that infamous conspiracy case was started which cost the people of India about 50 lakhs of rupees. I apprehend similar attempts are now being made by Sir Nazimuddin and his speech to-day is only an introduction of what is perhaps in store for us. At that time also, I believe in this very Chamber or in the Town Hall, a speech was made depicting the dark picture of Bengal as has been depicted to-day by Sir Nazimuddin, and then came the Meerut case and from to-day's speech of Sir Nazimuddin, I apprehend that similar movements or similar attempts are there and to-day is the preface of that. I may remind Sir Nazimuddin that the attempt of people like him from most of the provinces of India resulted in the expenditure of a colossal sum of money and with what result? The result was I think it is known to everybody and it has been admitted freely by most of the officers with whom I came in contact—that this Meerut case gave the widest publicity to our ideals, gave the biggest filip to our movement and the attempt of Sir Nazimuddin, if he is intent on suppressing this movement, will meet with the same fate—I can assure him this much.

I would like to say a word regarding his appeal to the Hindu community and it is very significant. Did he appeal to this side of the Hindu community? What he really meant by Hindu community was the people who belong to his class and it was to them only that his appeal was directed. Already we find Sir Nazimuddin and Sir Bijoy Prasad Singh Roy, Maharaja Srischandra Nandy of Cossimbazar and the Nawab Khwaja Habibullah Bahadur, of Dacca, are in close embrace with each other. It is no wonder. Adversity brings strange bed fellows. Now Sir Nazimuddin wants to broaden his basis. That is why he is appealing to the Hindu community, because it is well-known that they are opposed to the "have-nots"; most of the vested interests are in their hands, apart from the Europeans, and, therefore, he is appealing to the Hindu community, to the vested interests, to the conservative elements of the Hindu community, and from this those

sitting opposite should take a lesson. When the cry of "Islam in danger" is raised by Sir Nazimuddin, his supporters should understand what is really in danger—it is the vested interests that are in danger, it is the zemindary system that is in danger. The zemindari system is in danger—otherwise he would not have appealed to the Hindu community; he would have appealed to the Muslim community or perhaps to his other supporters. I think this speech will expose the reactionary nature of his administration more than any indictment that we could make against him.

A word to my scheduled castes friends They too have nothing to lose, as most of the Muslim members and Hindu members of this House, and they ought to remember the exploitation and oppression from which the members of their community suffer. I appeal to Sir Nazimuddin not to look to his self-interest alone There is a combination of vested interests in the present Ministry and the sooner the members of the Scheduled Castes realise it the better Any change of a fundamental character by Sir Nazimuddin or the Ministry is absolute moonshine and this Sir Nazimuddin has made absolutely clear to-day I am glad he spoke in that manner and in that vein So much for Sir Nazimuddin's oration

I would like to say a few words about the way in which the money provided under the head "Police" is spent Whenever there is a strike of the peasants or of the workers to resist oppression or exploitation immediately sections 144, 107 and all the rest of the Penal Code are invoked, But when the capitalists shut down their factories and throw out thousands of men into the streets as was done by Jute Ordinance passed by this Government, the Police come to their help In the National Jute Mill, Rajganj, the Manager violated the Jute Ordinance but no punishment was meted out to him by the present Ministry; they connived at it but when the strikers tried to resist it, the strike was broken by all sorts of questionable means of which any civilised Government would be ashamed

(Here the member reached his time-limit but was allowed half a minute to finish his say.)

Only to-day at Belur we find that 12 workers are on hunger-strike for a week and others are on stay-in-strike. Among them there is a Muhammadan of 60 years of age and we are all proud of him. The workers have combined because they found the oppression by the mill owners to be absolutely intolerable The Manager declared a lock-out for 3 months and over after he cut down the wages of the men by more than 40 per cent. and in some cases by 50 per cent. but the police never came to the help of these poor workers; on the other hand they oppressed these workers.

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit, resumed his seat.)

Maulana Md. MANIRUZZAMAN ISLAMABADI :

Mr. Speaker, Sir, আমাদের মাননীয় অর্থসচিব মহাশয় ১৯০৯-৪০ সালের যে বাজেট রচনা করিয়াছেন, তাহাতে দেখা যায়, তিনি স্বরাষ্ট্রসচিব মাননীয় স্যার খাজা নাজিমউদ্দিন সাহেবের প্রতি নিতান্তই সুপ্রসন্ন। এবং খাজা সাহেব ও অত্যন্ত ভাগ্যবান পুরুষ। কারণ বাজেটের ১৩ কোটি আয়ের মধ্যে অর্থসচিব মহোদয় একা খাজা সাহেবের ভাগেই দিয়াছেন প্রায় এক-তৃতীয় অংশ। অর্থাৎ ৩,৮৫,৪৬,০০০ টাকা। যাহার যখন ভাগ্য প্রসন্ন হয় তখন তিনি এইরূপ ভাবেই বড় বরাত পাইয়া থাকেন। তিনি General Administration এর নামে পাইয়াছেন ১,১৯,২৯,০০০৲ টাকা। Jails and Convict Settlement এর নামে ৩৩,৭৩,০০০৲ এবং পুলিসের নামে পাইয়াছেন ২,৩২,৪৪,০০০৲। গভর্ণমেণ্টের যত বিভাগ আছে, তন্মধ্যে সর্ব্বাপেক্ষা জোর বরাত দেখিতেছি পুলিশের। তাহাদের সমকক্ষতা আর কেহ করিতে পারে নাই। যে পুলিসের জন্য এত টাকা বরাদ্দ হইয়াছে তাহাদের দ্বারা দেশের ও দশের কি কাজ হইতেছে তাহা একবার তলাইয়া দেখা আমাদের আবশ্যক। পুলিশ পোষণ করা হয় দেশের শান্তি রক্ষার জন্য। অনাচার, অত্যাচার, চুরি, ডাকাতি ও অশান্তি নিবারণই পুলিশের কাজ। কিন্তু আমরা কার্য্যক্ষেত্রে কি দেখিতে পাই। পুলিশের সর্ব্বনিম্নস্তরে আছে গ্রাম্য পুলিশ অর্থাৎ চৌকীদার, দফাদার। দেশবাসীর বিশ্বাস, গ্রামের অধিকাংশ চুরি, ডাকাতি ইহাদেরই যোগসাজিশে হইয়া থাকে। ইহাদের উপরে আছে, থানাওয়ালা পুলিশ। দেশের আবহাওয়ার সহিত যাহারা পরিচিত, গ্রামের খোঁজ খবর যাহারা রাখে, তাহারা বিশ্বাস করিতে বাধ্য হয় যে পুলিশের সঙ্গে বন্ধুত্ব ব্যতীত দেশের নামজাদা চোর ডাকাতগণের ব্যবসায় চলিতে পারে না। আমি আমার নিজ থানা ও পার্শ্ববর্ত্তী থানার ২।১টি দৃষ্টান্ত দেখাইতেছি। চট্টগ্রাম জিলার পটীয়া থানার অন্তর্গত আমার নিজগ্রামের সংলগ্ন একটী গ্রামের নাম কেশুয়া। উক্ত গ্রামটী "চাঁদখালী" ও "শাঙ্গু" এই দুই নদীর সঙ্গম স্থলে অবস্থিত। এই উভয় নদীর জল পথে বহু মাল ও প্যাসেঞ্জারবাহী নৌকা চলাচল করিয়া থাকে। গ্রামের একদল দুর্দ্দান্ত দুষ্ট লোক বহু বৎসর হইতে নৌকা আক্রমণ করিয়া মালপত্র লুটপাট করিয়া আসিতেছে। কিন্তু থানায় খবর দিয়া ও দুষ্টদিগের বিরুদ্ধে মামলা মোকদ্দমা করিয়া এযাবৎ কোনই ফল পাওয়া যায় নাই। থানা পুলিসের উদাসীনতা বা চোর ডাকাতদের প্রতি তাহাদের অনুকূল ভাবেরই ইহা পরিণাম। এই গ্রামের দস্যুবৃত্তির কথা আমরা ডি, আই, জি ও পুলিশ সুপারিনটেণ্ডেণ্টের নিকট ডেপুটেশন সূত্রে জানাইয়াও এযাবৎ কোনই প্রতিকার পাই নাই। কর্ণফুলী নদীর মোহনার নিকট সর্ব্বদাই প্যাসেঞ্জার ও মালবাহী নৌকার প্রতি জলদস্যুদের আক্রমণ চলিয়া থাকে। কিন্তু প্রতিকার কোথায়? এই শ্রেণীর পুলিশের জন্যই কি প্রায় আড়াই কোটী টাকা বরাদ্দ করা হইয়াছে? অবশ্য পুলিশ বিভাগে যে honest লোক নাই তাহা আমি বলিতেছি না। কিন্তু শতকরা ২।১ জন সচ্চরিত্র পুলিশ officer থাকিলে তাহাদিগকে গণনার মধ্যে আনা চলে না, আরও এক কথা, আমরা অভিজ্ঞতার ভিতর দিয়া অবগত আছি, যেখানে ২।১ জন নিরপেক্ষ উৎকোচ গ্রহণ দোষ বর্জ্জিত officer আছেন ঐ বিভাগীয় অপর সকল কর্ম্মচারীই তাঁহার শত্রু হইয়া পড়ে, সুযোগ মতে তাঁহারা উপরস্থের নিকট তাহার দোষ দেখাইয়া বেড়ায়। এই কারণে ঐরূপ সচ্চরিত্র পুলিশ কর্ম্মচারীর উন্নতি সহজে হয় না। এমন কি অন্যান্য সহকর্ম্মীদের ষড়যন্ত্রে তাহার চাকুরী রক্ষা করাও দায় হইয়া উঠে। কলিকাতার বুকের উপর উচ্চ পুলিশ কর্ম্মচারীর সাহায্য লইয়া যে ভাবে প্রগতিশীল মোছলমানগণের "মোছলেম লীগ অধিবেশন" পণ্ড করিয়া দেওয়া হইয়াছিল, যে ভাবে সেই দিন টাউনহলের মিটিং ভাঙ্গিয়া দিয়া জাতীয় দলের মোছলমানদিগকে আহত অবস্থায় Hospital এ পাঠানের ব্যবস্থা করা হইল, বঙ্গীয় ব্যবস্থা পরিষদে মন্ত্রীদের বিরুদ্ধে অনাস্থা প্রস্তাব আনীত হওয়ার পূর্ব্ব দিবস মিঃ হুমায়ুন কবির ও মিঃ আবদুল মনসুরকে এক ইউরোপীয় সার্জ্জেণ্টের সম্মুখে যেরূপ নির্দ্দয়ভাবে প্রহার করা হইল, চট্টগ্রাম টাউনহলের সম্মুখে একজন উচ্চ পুলিশ officer ও বহু পুলিশ constable এর সম্মুখে প্রফেসার হুমায়ুন কবিরকে যে ভাবে অপমানিত করা হইয়াছিল,

প্রফেসার হুমায়ুনের গ্রাম্য বাড়ীর সম্মুখে স্বয়ং Subdivisional officer ও S. P. ফরিদপুর হইতে যাইয়া পুলিশের সাহায্যে যে ভাবে কৃষক-প্রজা Conference ভাঙ্গিয়া দিয়াছিলেন, ডাঃ ছনাউল্লাকে হত্যা করার উদ্দেশ্যে লিগের গুণ্ডাগণ তাহাকে আক্রমণ ও আহত করিয়া তাহার যথা সর্ব্বস্ব লুণ্ঠিত করিয়া সেই দিনই সন্ধ্যায় বোয়ালখালী থানার অন্তর্গত চাঁদের হাটের লিগের এক জনসভায় উক্ত থানার S. I. এর সম্মুখে লুণ্ঠিত দ্রব্যাদি প্রদর্শিত হইয়াছিল। এই ঘটনার বিষয় S. P. র গোচরীভূত করা হইয়াছিল, লিগরাজ আমল বলিয়া ইহার কোন প্রতীকার হয় নাই। গুণ্ডাদের বিরুদ্ধেও কোনরূপ মোকদ্দমা চালান হয় নাই, পুলিশ কর্ম্মচারীও নিরাপদে বহাল তবিয়াতে চাকুরি করিয়া যাইতেছেন। কলকারখানার ধর্ম্মঘটের সময় পুলিশ যেরূপ বেপরওয়া ভাবে গুলি চালাইয়া নিরাশ্রয় ও নিরীহ শ্রমজীবীদিগকে হতাহত করিতে অভ্যস্থ, এত অনাচার দেখিয়া শুনিয়াও কি কেহ বলিবেন যে, পুলিশের কাজ শান্তিরক্ষা ও অনাচার নিবারণ? আমরা কার্য্যক্ষেত্রে ঠিক ইহার বিপরীত আচরণই দেখিয়া আসিতেছি। এইত গেল পুলিশের আচরণের কথা।

এখন সাধারণ ভাণ্ডারের টাকা পুলিশের হাতে কিরূপ ভাবে ব্যয়িত হইতেছে তাহা একবার দেখা আবশ্যক। প্রত্যেক জিলার মোটা বেতনের S. P., A. S. P., D. S. P. নামে তিন চারি জন উচ্চ officer নিযুক্ত আছেন। পুলিশ Inspector এর সংখ্যাও বৃদ্ধি পাইয়াছে। থানা সমূহে বিশেষতঃ বড় বড় থানায় S. I. ও A. S. I. এর সংখ্যা যথেষ্ট বাড়াইয়া দেওয়া হইয়াছে। কিন্তু চুরি চামারী ও ডাকাতি বাটপারীর সংখ্যা দিন দিন বাড়িতেছে ব্যতিত কমিতেছে না। কলিকাতার বুকের উপর হোটেলে হোটেলে, প্রকাশ্য বাজারে ও footpathএ অবাধে জুয়ার আড্ডা বসাইয়া জুয়াড়ীরা লোকের সর্ব্বনাশ সাধন করিতেছে। কিন্তু পুলিশ যে কি কাজের জন্য নিযুক্ত আছে তাহা বুঝিবার উপায় নাই। পুলিশকে ঘুষ দিয়া বিনা licence এ কলিকাতার footpath এ বসিয়া হাজার হাজার লোক ব্যবসা চালাইতেছে, কোন স্থানে উচ্চবাচ্য হইতেছে না। কলিকাতার পথে ঘাটে কোকেনের ব্যবসায় অবাধে চলিয়া যাইতেছে, পুলিশের সাহায্য ব্যতীত এই ব্যবসায় চলিতে পারে না। শান্তির নামে অশান্তি ও অনাচারের সাক্ষাৎ প্রতিমূর্ত্তি পুলিশের জন্য জনভাণ্ডারের প্রায় ২॥ কোটী টাকা অতি নির্দ্দয় ভাবে ব্যয় করা হইতেছে। ইহা কিরূপে সমর্থন করা যায়?

পুলিশের ঘরবাড়ী, আয়েশ আরামের জন্য ৮ লক্ষ ৫৩ হাজার টাকা ব্যয় করা হইবে। তাহাদের জন্য পাকা বিল্ডিং, বৈদ্যুতিক আলো ও পাখার ব্যবস্থা না করিলে চলিতেছে না। পুলিশের New works ও minor works হেডিংএর এক স্থানে Lamp provision police building বাবত ২ লক্ষ ও Lamp provision for minor works বাবত ১ লক্ষ টাকা বরাদ্দ করা আছে। ইহাকে পুলিশের জন্য "ফাণ্ড" বাজেট বলা যাইতে পারে। দেশের টাকা এইরূপ ভাবে অপব্যয় করিতে দিবার জন্য কোন বিবেক সম্পন্ন ব্যক্তি মত দিতে পারে না। তবে কোয়ালিশন দলের মাননীয় মেম্বরগণের কথা স্বতন্ত্র। তাঁহারা পরিষদ গৃহে প্রবেশের পূর্ব্বে তাঁহাদের বিবেক বুদ্ধি হয়তঃ তাহাদের লবীতেই ছাড়িয়া আসেন। তাঁহাদের বক্তৃতার সহিত ভোট আদান প্রদানের সামঞ্জস্য থাকার প্রয়োজন করে না। তাঁহারা যাহা বলেন, কাজের সময় তাহার বিপরীত আচরণ করেন। বক্তৃতার সময় মন্ত্রীদের বিরুদ্ধে তীব্র সমালোচনা করেন, কিন্তু পরমুহূর্ত্তেই ভোটের বেলায় তাঁহাদের পক্ষে ভোট দিয়া আত্ম প্রতারণা করেন, ইহা দুনিয়ার এক আজব কাণ্ড।

Mr. ABDUR RASCHID MAHMOOD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Police constitute the prime-mover of the Government established by law and order. Their fundamental function is to maintain peace and tranquillity in the country. We are not unconscious of the disadvantageous environments within which this department have got to carry on with their normal duties. Neither we have been callous to

their comforts and well-earned rewards. But at the same time, we feel that the subordinate police staff have not yet been satisfactory. Of late, we have noticed that the top stratum of this department is melting down with an appreciable leaning towards the creation of mutual understanding and spirit of co-operation between the police and the public. At the same time the behaviour of the subordinate staff in the villages has been persistently simply shocking. In these days of democracy, the village people have yet got to watch the approach of a policeman with a mixture of abrupt feelings. Instead of bringing peace the policeman brings panic with him for the villagers. A respectable man keeps himself at a distance from the lal-pagri. Those who are molested by the wicked fear further molestation from the police. They go about as if with a high command and with an attitude of "don't care" identify themselves with village cliques, and are often known to concoct cases with hopes for a quick promotion. True that nature of their duties make them move after criminals, and bad characters, and law-breakers, but at the same time it is equally their duty to give protection to the law-abiding people with a sympathetic attitude. Our grievance is that a subordinate staff is often very unsatisfactory in his dealings with those who are peaceful, law-abiding and eager to co-operate for the sake of common interest. Government may creditably direct that department with indications that it is time that the subordinate staff of that department change their repulsive attitude to a friendly one, and, be the real friends of the people, instead of raising the master's voice over them.

Sir, we hear of the police of the Scotland Yards with admiration. We hear of the traffic Sergeants of that country with a soft heart filled with love and friendliness. With the officers educated and trained in that country, and placed at the departmental heads in this country, we see the difference of working of the police in this country and that country with subordinate staff recruited in this country One cannot but admit that we have our own fault but the fault in an administrative machinery concerns millions of those who are administered; and therefore, it is the duty of the popular Government to discover the sore points and try to heal them up in no time.

In the past years, we have seldom seen a Bengalee in the Bengal Police force. Even now in these days when Bihar is for Biharis, and the Punjab for Punjabis, Bengal appears to be for everybody. Recruitments in that department from bona fide candidates of Bengal show a miserable figure up to date We want to see that the Bengal Police Department can show a commendable number of Bengalees in the police force. This is a matter of recruitment and giving training in a systematic way within a definite period of time so as to compensate the deficiency in the past and keep the mark of the present up to fore-limit. It has been said more often that Bengalees are not suitable for the military or the police force though Bengalees recruited

during war time, have shown their inherent chivalry in the forefront. Facts and history belie this unjustifiable reflection. Now with so many unemployed and well-educated Bengalee youths the policy of the Government should be to recruit from amongst these young stars who at times are blamed for being misguided youths for want of employment.

Mr. SERAJUL ISLAM: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not want to move the motion that stands in my name, but I should like to say a few words about the question of controlling films and cinemas in general and in the mufassal in particular.

With the onrush of the waves of western civilisation on this eastern land of ours, with its peculiar civilisation, a peculiar temperament, a peculiar mode of living and a peculiar social system, films and cinemas has come upon us not as a boon but, I must unhesitatingly say, as a dangerous menace to our society a vile canker that has been eating into the very vitals of our national existence

Sir, much can be said about the educative value of the films and cinemas but considering the fact that we are hopelessly backward educationally and economically and very sadly lacking in following the principle of adaptation this tremendous onrush of the pictures in our midst has been too early and premature About the obnoxious and baneful effect of them, the less said the better

Sir, our cities and towns have first of all been affected and the contagious disease is spreading rapidly in the mufassal to spoil the innocent dumb millions there, so much so, that they are being tempted to the lowest depth of degradation and degeneration

The whole trouble lies in the fact that the owners of the houses are more concerned and anxious for the outturn of their booking offices than for educating the audience They thank their stars when they see a huge crowd on the windows, no matter they may die in suffocation or in fighting for the tickets

Sir, as a concrete example I may cite here that on the 17th of February last, the Sivaratri day, there was such a big crowd before the booking office of Chitra in North Calcutta that a young man died then and there of suffocation and six men were seriously injured rendering them to be removed to the hospital

We are told that there is a Board of Censors but we are surprised to see that they do practically nothing for the purpose for which they exist. The police, on the other hand, stand aside when a strong hand is required of them for the purpose They do not exert themselves in the matter of controlling the crowd

The owners of the cinema houses are not alone responsible but the Government's responsibility is not less than that of the owners. I

therefore suggest that steps should immediately be taken to find out ways and means for controlling the crowd especially of the 3rd and 4th class booking offices and also the films themselves.

Sir, advance booking of these two classes should be stopped at once and in every house arrangements should be made in such a way that just after buying a ticket of the 3rd or 4th class the ticket-holder will enter the house just as it is done in football enclosures. Advance booking is a bad system for bargaining and that must be stopped at once. In the advanced countries of Europe these films and cinemas are well regulated and we must have it done here.

There should be set apart some films specially for the children as is done in the advanced countries of Europe and, if possible, two days in a week should be set apart for children's shows. Thus we must save our tender-hearted young ones from the baneful effects of the modern shows.

Now, Sir, as regards the mufassil, there have been established permanent houses in many mufassil towns. In my poor subdivisional town of Bongaon, there is such a house, and I see every day lots of poor villagers are tempted to the shows by various sorts of advertisements. They are selling their utensils, seeds and other necessaries and are impounding cattle by unfair means for getting something to see the shows. I, therefore, suggest that especially in the flood-affected districts the cinema houses must be closed at least for a reasonable period of time Circulars should be issued at once for the purpose Sir, we have invested about 50 lakhs of rupees as agricultural loans amongst the villagers in the flood-affected districts If we want to get back that money we must at once close the doors of the cinemas in the mufassil.

Sir, I should like to tell the Hon'ble the Home Minister and also the Hon'ble the Revenue Minister to join hands with each other to take up the matter in right earnest in order to control the films and shows and thus to save our younger generation from the bewildering clutches of the cinema bargainers There must be a strong Board of Censors absolutely free from corrupt practices If we can do this we shall be doing a tremendous good to our future hopefuls and if we can save them, we shall ultimately be saving ourselves.

Mr. JOGENDRA NATH MANDAL: Sir, I draw your attention to the fact that the motion in my name stands fifth, but I have been given time to speak at this late hour May I know what is the reason for it? By such arrangement, I think, I have been deprived of my privilege.

Mr. SPEAKER: You belong to the Scheduled Castes party, I think?

Mr. JOGENDRA NATH MANDAL: Yes, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have been getting the list of speakers from your party Whip, which is a combined list. If you file your complaint duly to your Whip, you will have your grievances redressed. I want to know definitely if there is any complaint against this procedure, for in that case I shall take up the motions as they appear in the list. Now you can speak

Mr. JOGENDRA NATH MANDAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 2,14,55,000 under the head "29—Police" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about failure to effect economy in Police administration

Sir, this topic is not new in this House Very disagreeably to this House, very unfortunately to the people of this province, no topic has been more familiar to us. Long before the inauguration of the autonomous regime in April 1937 some members of the Bengal Legislature were endeavouring to have the top-heavy expenditure on the Police head curtailed, but all their attempts were in vain. We the members of this Assembly never failed to record our emphatic protest against such increased budgetary estimate for the valiant myrmidons of law and order But what effect has it produced? The expenditure on Police head is ever increasing, and this year it has assumed such a magnitude that it cannot but excite resentment and unkindest criticism even in the blind supporters of the Government The increase is not by a small amount, it is about 9 lakhs of rupees Sir, I would ask every member of this House, particularly the members of the Coalition Party who are mostly the representatives of the people, whether they should vote for such a demand. This demand for an increased expenditure in the present peaceful political atmosphere of the country is not only unreasonable but unwarranted too. Had the present Government a little amount of regard for the public opinion, they would not certainly have budgeted such a huge amount for the police In no other departments public opinion has been so contemptuously flouted.

The Hon'ble the Finance Minister has complained of the depleted finance in the matter of nation-building departments, but he has found ample provision for an increased expenditure so far as the police are concerned. Notwithstanding the release of political prisoners and cessation of political unrest in the country, the rising budgetary estimate for the police force is to me absolutely unaccountable. The release of political prisoners has resulted in the saving of several lakhs. Absence of terrorism and political unrest has rendered the intensive vigilance of the Criminal Investigation Department or the Intelligence Branch of the Police absolutely unnecessary. Then what are the reasons for which the demand for expenditure under the head "Police" instead of being

reduced has been increased enormously? To justify their action the Hon'ble the Finance Minister and the Hon'ble the Home Minister in their speeches have hinted at the steps of revolution and another discontent in the land. But may I ask them whether that is due to any political reason or reasons simply economical? I do say the reasons are economical. Mass discontent can never be suppressed by police methods. If the condition of the down-trodden masses is not ameliorated and if the question of unemployment is not solved to a certain extent, the Government will find it extremely difficult to avert the steps of revolution even if they spend all their resources for the maintenance of Police force. Even the multitudinous seas will fail to wash away the fire of disaffection among the masses.

Sir, what is necessary for the peaceful administration of this province is to approach, with courage and determination, the important problems that vitally affect the masses and place all the available resources for their solution. In a word, if the problem of *dal bhat* is solved, all the discontent in the land will soon disappear. But instead of directing their attention and energy to the solution of this problem if the Government intend to maintain peace and tranquillity in the country by terrorising the people with the police force, then they are trying to achieve the impossible.

Sir, I shall be failing in my duty if I fail to make mention of the maladministration of the Police Department The police are taken to be the custodian of peace, tranquillity and safety of the people. But in many cases they by their commission and omission become a source of danger to them The police officers consider themselves as the master of the people and not as their servant Extortion of innocent people is a sort of amusement to them Abominable corruption of all description has crept into the vitals of the entire system of police administration To receive bribe is a credit to them There can seldom be found in this country a police officer who is not addicted to this vile practice. It will not be out of place here to mention that some police officers of the mufassil police-stations, for purposes lucrative to them, not only protect the notorious offenders like thieves and dacoits from detection and arrest but save them also from conviction. This may appear incredible, but practically these are happening behind the screen.

Sir, in spite of our political advancement the outlook of the police of our country has not undergone any change whatsoever.

Sir, before I conclude I like to draw the attention of the Government, particularly of the Hon'ble Sir Nazimuddin, to one specific grievance of the Scheduled Castes constables. They have got no cook-shed anywhere. As a consequence they have got to suffer miserably. In district or subdivisional towns they take their meals in hotels but in mufassil police-stations they fall in great difficulty.

(At this stage the member reached the time-limit but was allowed to conclude his speech in one minute.)

May I have half a minute more to finish my speech?

Mr. SPEAKER: All right, half a minute and not more.

Mr. JOGENDRA NATH MANDAL: It is most humiliating and shocking to the scheduled caste people to think that when the two communities, viz., the caste Hindus and Muhammadans have got separate cook-sheds they are not allowed to enjoy the same privilege. It is needless for me to mention here that the constables belonging to the scheduled castes are not allowed to enter the cook-shed of the caste Hindu constables. I trust and hope, Sir, that this long-felt grievance of the sufferers will be removed this year.

Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to make a few observations regarding the administration of the Intelligence Branch of the Criminal Investigation Department. Sir, at the outset, I should like to make it clear that my observations should not be construed as supporting any cut motion; on the other hand, they should be taken as drawing the attention of the Hon'ble the Home Minister with a view to redressing the grievances of the Muslims. So far as this department is concerned, I shall try to convince the House that the interests of the Muslims have been trampled under foot and that their cause has been disregarded and neglected.

In order to justify my remarks, first of all, I shall draw the attention of the Hon'ble the Home Minister to the present strength of the department. At present, Sir, out of 10 Deputy Superintendents of Police, all of them are Hindus; out of 29 Inspectors, both permanent and temporary, 27 are Hindus and 2 Muhammadans; out of 96 Sub-Inspectors, 87 are Hindus and 9 Muhammadans; out of 47 Assistant Sub-Inspectors 43 are Hindus and 4 Muhammadans; out of 53 watchers, 47 are Hindus and 6 Muhammadans. It may be asked why should Muhammadans try to come to this department? The reason is very simple, Sir. If you kindly turn your attention to the salaries and allowances drawn every month by officers of this department, as well as by those of the general branch, you will find that the salaries of the officers of this department are much higher, and that is why, Sir, the Muslims should be anxious to have their share of appointments in this department. I would like to draw the attention of the Hon'ble the Home Minister to the scandalous way in which appointments are made in this department.

In the year 1937, when the Intelligence Branch Department was made permanent, 17 Hindu watchers were appointed, and in answer to my question No. 145, put on the floor of this House on the 8th March,

it was stated that immediately after the appointment of these 17 Hindu watchers fourteen were promoted to officiate as Assistant Sub-Inspectors. I fail to understand why these promotions should have been made immediately after the appointment of these officers as watchers, and I hope that the Hon'ble the Home Minister will kindly explain to the House why such a scandalous state of affairs should continue in this department. I again say, Sir, that this was done in direct violation of Police order No. 7 of 1937. Although the Hon'ble the Home Minister in answer to my abovementioned question stated the other day that it was not applicable, so far as the Intelligence Branch was concerned, the action of the departmental authorities will justify my statement that it is fully applicable. Sir, when this state of affairs was brought to the notice of the Inspector-General, he at once ordered that these officers should be sent to the Police Training College, and out of these 14 gentlemen, who were officiating as Assistant Sub-Inspectors, eight or nine were sent to the Police Training College. At that time, Sir, these nine vacancies together with 23 other vacancies, i.e., 32 in all, were filled up—and filled up—by persons who were examined according to Police order No. 7, and the examination took place in the month of August, 1938. In that examination, Sir, about 60 persons sat, and 6 Muslims did remarkably well, one standing second, another sixth, another twelfth, so forth and so on. Officiating appointments were given to these 32 persons, but by the middle of January when these nine officers, who were sent to the Police Training College, came back, unfortunately nine officers had to revert in order to make room for these officers. Here I should mention, Sir, that I forgot to bring one fact to the notice of the Hon'ble the Home Minister When the 14 watchers were appointed to officiate as Assistant Sub-Inspectors, there were 13 permanent vacancies. Sir, is it not a fact that there was no dearth of able officers, and still these 13 permanent vacancies were not filled up and even before that—as the answer to my question No. 145 will show—there was one Muslim senior officiating Assistant Sub-Inspector who was declared fit by the Deputy Inspector-General of Police for confirmation. That gentleman has not been made permanent as yet I fail to understand, Sir, why these 13 vacancies have not yet been filled up. What was the reason behind it? To my mind, the reason is very simple, viz., to make the nine officers permanent when they came back from the Police Training College. So far as I could gather, Sir, when these nine officers came back, a report was sent by the Deputy Inspector-General to the Inspector-General to make them permanent by exempting them of their probationary period. Fortunately, Sir—as far as we know—the Inspector-General rejected that prayer, and still attempts are being made to make them permanent after a probation for three months or so, made by the Deputy Inspector-General without any reference to the Inspector-General.

(At this stage the member reached the time-limit but was allowed one minute more to finish his speech.)

Sir, I am giving only facts and figures. These officers who have come back from the Training College belong to——

Mr. SPEAKER: Please do not mention any names.

Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: All right, Sir. Without mentioning any name, I may say that these officers are the favourites of a highly-placed official of the Police Department, and that is why an attempt is being made to make them permanent. If the Hon'ble the Home Minister will kindly call me, I am quite prepared to give him the facts and figures why permanent vacancies are going to be made available for these officers.

Mr. A. M. A. ZAMAN: আজকে মাননীয় হোম মিনিষ্টারের বক্তৃতা শুনে খুব আনন্দিত হয়েছি কেন না এর দ্বারা স্বরূপ তার স্বরূপটা স্পষ্ট কোরে ধরা পোড়েছে। (A member from the Coalition party কেন আগে কি জানতেন না?) জানতেন, তবে আজকে খুব ভালো কোরে ধরা পোড়েছে। উনি যে ভাবে আজ বোলেছেন, যে ভাবে পুলিশকে support কোরেছেন তা না কোরে ওঁর উপায় নাই। কারণ, উনি চান ডাণ্ডা। ডাণ্ডা না থাকলে ওঁর কোন উপায় নাই, দেশবাসীকে আর কিছুই ওঁর দেবার নাই। পটুয়াখালি থেকে ছেরে যখন কলকাতায় এসে আসন গ্রহণ করেছেন, তখন কলকাতার লোকদের ডাণ্ডা ছাড়া দেবার আর কিছুই নাই। তিনি আজকের speech এ বোলেছেন যে ডেটিনিউ হয়ে যারা ছিলো, তারাই বাইরে এসে কৃষক আন্দোলন আর শ্রমিক আন্দোলন চালাচ্ছে এবং তাদের উদ্দেশ্য হচ্ছে, এই গভর্ণমেণ্টকে ধ্বংশ কোরে দেওয়া, কিন্তু আমরা যারা নাকি labour movement কোরছি তারা সত্যকার হিসাবে তাদের ভালোর জন্যই movement কোরছি। কিন্তু ওঁরা চাইছেন ৭ ধারা প্রয়োগ কোরে আমাদের ওয়ারকারদের পঙ্গু কোরে রাখতে। তারা যাতে সত্যিকারের মানুষ হিসাবে বাঁচতে পারে—সেই অধিকারটা আদায় কোরবার জন্যই শ্রমিক আন্দোলনের ভিতর যত সব ডেটিনিউ রয়েছে — তারা movement চালাচ্ছে। সেইটে যদি ওঁরা ভালো ভাবে চালাতে দেন তাহলে আর কোন গোলমালই হয় না, কিন্তু তা না কোরে ওঁরা ভয় দেখিয়ে থাকেন পুলিশের ডাণ্ডার আর ১০৭ ধারার। আমি ওঁকে স্পষ্ট বোলে দিতে চাই যে যতই ডাণ্ডা চালাবেন— ততই আন্দোলন বেড়ে যাবে। ডাণ্ডা দ্বারা কিছুই কমে নাই। পুলিশের এরকম কোন রিপোর্ট নাই যে মুভমেণ্ট তারা কমিয়ে দিয়েছে। ওঁকে জানিয়ে দিতে চাই যে আর বেশী দিন এদেশবাসীকে পুলিশের ভয় দেখিয়ে, ডাণ্ডার ভয় দেখিয়ে রাখতে পারবেন না। যখন সাহায্যের জন্য চিৎকার করে শ্রমিকেরা, কৃষকেরা— সাহায্যের জন্য তখন সেখানে পুলিশ কোথায়? ওরা চায় রুটি এঁরা দেন ডাণ্ডা। আমি জিজ্ঞাসা করি এই কথা, জমিদারের কর্ম্মচারীরা যখন প্রজাদের উপর অত্যাচার করে, আর মিলে যখন মালিকেরা কুলিদের হঠাৎ বিনা কারণে জবাব দেয়, এবং স্ত্রী পুত্র নিয়ে কুলিরা পথে বেরোয়, তখন জমিদারের কর্ম্মচারী এবং মিলের মালিকদের উপর ১৪৪ ধারা কখনো দিয়েছেন কি? মন্ত্রিমণ্ডল কি কখনও পুলিশ পাঠাইয়াছেন এই অসহায় লোকদের সাহায্য করার জন্য। ওঁরা পুলিশ দিয়ে সাহায্য করেন কাদের? ওঁদের দলের লোক নাকি যাঁরা তাঁদের। মজুর কৃষকদের কিছু মাত্র সাহায্য করবার জন্য ওঁরা নয়। য়ুরোপীয়ান সভ্যেরা ওঁর বক্তৃতা শুনে খুব হাততালি দিয়েছেন, worker দের অর্ডিষ্ট কোরে পুলিশের দ্বারা মিল মালিকদের সাহায্য কোরবেন—সেই আভাস মন্ত্রী মহাশয় দিয়েছেন বোলেই তাঁরা মন্ত্রী মহাশয়কে খুব বাহবা দিয়েছেন। কিন্তু আমি ওঁকে এই কথা জিজ্ঞাসা

কোরছি যে, আর কতদিন বাংলাদেশের লোকদের লাঠি দিয়ে ভয় দেখিয়ে চালাবেন? সেদিন Upper House এ তিনি যে রকম শাসিয়েছেন——

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order. There should not be any reference about the other House here.

যে যদি এখনও বাংলাদেশের লোক সোজা পথে না চলে তবে তিনি এমন আইন করিবেন যে বাধ্য হইয়া সোজা হইতে হইবে। আগে ছিলো ভয়ের দিন। গ্রামে একটা চৌকিদার যদি পাগড়ী মাথায় বেঁধে দাঁড়াতো তাহলে লোকে ভয়ে কাঁপতো আর আজকে খোদ মিনিষ্টারও যদি দাঁড়ান তাহলে একটী লোকও ভয় পায় না। যেমন কিছু দিন আগে টিটাগড়ে গিয়েছিলেন পুলিশ মন্ত্রী মহোদয় যিনি আজকে বড় বড় কথা বোলে মুসলমানদের সর্ব্বনাশ কোরছেন, সেখানে টিটাগড়ের মিল area য় তাঁকে নামতেই দেয় নাই। কারণ তারা জানে যে তাদের সর্ব্বনাশ করা ছাড়া আর কোন কর্ত্তব্য ওঁদের নাই। হুগলী গিয়াছিলেন মিনিষ্টাররা, সেখানেও তাঁরা ভালো কোরেই দেখেছেন অবস্থাটা কি? আমি আর একটা কথা ওঁকে মনে করিয়ে দিচ্ছি উনি কি মনে কোরেছেন লর্ড ক্লাইভের দিন আবার ফিরে এসেছে—যে বেয়োনেটের খোঁচা দিয়ে বাংলাদেশকে আবার ওঁদের পথে নিয়ে যাবেন? সেদিন আর নাই, সে যুগ চোলে গেছে। কাজেই কথাটা ওঁর ভেবে বলা উচিত ছিলো। যে রকম ভাবে অন্যান্য দেশ প্রস্তুত হইয়াছে ঐ রকম ভাবে আজ দেশ প্রস্তুত হয় নাই; যদি প্রস্তুত হতো, তাহলে পাব্লিকের সামনে, জনসাধারণের সামনে ভাল রকম বিচার হতো এবং জনসাধারণ ওঁদের কৈফিয়ৎ চাইতো যে, কেন, তোমরা দেশের ভাল করার ওজুহাতে দেশকে ডুবাবার জন্যে সকলকে সর্ব্বনাশের পথে নিয়ে যাচ্ছো।

Adjournment.

At this stage the House was adjourned till 4-45 p.m. on Tuesday, the 21st March, 1939, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Tuesday, the 21st March, 1939, at 4-45 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. AZIZUL HAQUE, C.I.E.) in the Chair, 11 Hon'ble Ministers and 205 members.

Obituary reference.

Mr. SPEAKER: Ladies and gentlemen, it is my melancholy duty to convey the sad news of two deaths which occurred in quick succession. It was only on Friday last that Maulana Hazrat Abu Bakr breathed his last at the ripe old age of 90. He was revered in all circles. He was a man of erudite scholarship and knowledge, a man of strong personality and striking character. He commanded widest influence both in the province and outside. His death has been a distinct loss to this province.

Soon after that, only last night we heard the mournful message that one in our midst, Khan Bahadur Syed Abdul Hafeez, breathed his last after suffering for a very long time. He was a member of this House. His personality and manners were attractive and he was noted for his courteous manner and amiable disposition. We all mourn his loss.

I hope, ladies and gentlemen, you will agree that it is our duty to convey our message of condolence to the bereaved relatives of Maulana Hazrat Abu Bakr and Khan Bahadur Syed Abdul Hafeez. You will kindly give your assent by rising in your seats.

(All members rose in their seats.)

Thank you, ladies and gentlemen. Secretary will communicate the message.

In view of the fact that Khan Bahadur Syed Abdul Hafeez, was a sitting member of this House and the Deputy Leader of a party, it is the wish of the different groups that the House should adjourn as a mark of respect to his memory. I therefore adjourn the House.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned till 4-45 p.m. on Wednesday, the 22nd March, 1939, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Wednesday, the 22nd March, 1939, at 4-45 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. AZIZUL HAQUE, C.I.E.) in the Chair, 11 Hon'ble Ministers and 219 members.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Waiting room at Mymensingh Court for jurors.

***235. Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that there is no room or shed for the jurors to rest in the Mymensingh Court compound?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government contemplate some arrangement for the jurors to rest in the Court compound?

MINISTER in charge of the JUDICIAL and LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Nawab Musharruff Hossain, Khan Bahadur): (*a*) There is none.

(*b*) No necessity has been felt for such a resting room as the jurors ordinarily wait in the respective Court rooms before they are finally discharged.

Mr. SHAHEDALI: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the pleaders have to stand up for an hour and give room for the jurors to take their seats in the Court room?

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur: I have nothing further to add.

Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN: With reference to answer (*b*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the necessity has not been felt by the jurors or by the Government officers?

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur: By the jurors.

Recruitment of non-Bengali police constables.

***236. Maulvi AULAD HOSSAIN KHAN:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Police) Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) how many constables, both literate and ordinary, have been recruited during the year 1938; and

(*ii*) whether any non-Bengalis have been recruited or selected for recruitment?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) (*ii*) is in the affirmative, what are the reasons?

MINISTER in charge of the HOME DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN): (*a*) (*i*) 995 in the Bengal Police and 193 in the Calcutta Police.

(*ii*) Yes

(*b*) Greater suitability for the work required to be performed.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: With reference to answer (*b*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the features of greater stability in non-Bengali elements and whether those features are available in Bengali elements or not?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I believe it is first of all a question of physical fitness and the other is the armed branch of the Police where an experiment is being tried with Bengalis

Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY: With reference to answer (*a*) (*i*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us out of 193 constables in the Calcutta Police how many are Bengalis and how many non-Bengalis?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I ask for notice

Mr. PROMATHA RANJAN THAKUR: What are the duties for the performance of which non-Bengali constables are considered to be more suitable than the Bengali constables?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: As I have already stated, as far as the armed branch is concerned, so far the experiments with Bengalis have not been successful. We are again experimenting by having one platoon of armed Bengalis in every Range. That is the main reason why we have to recruit at the present time non-Bengalis for the police force in Bengal.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: With reference to the Hon'ble Minister's reply regarding physical fitness, will he enlighten us whether physical fitness was available in Bengal or whether it was only manifest in non-Bengali elements?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Sir, I want to know whether the question of physical fitness consists in the height, breadth, girth, etc?

Mr. SPEAKER: You may ask that question

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister enlighten us as to what he means by physical fitness?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Certain standards of measurement, required as far as the Calcutta Police is concerned, have not been available in the past. I have suggested that we should not insist on those who come forward in Calcutta only, but in every rural police-station or rather in every district headquarters they should try to recruit Bengalis who will conform to the standards set up in Calcutta.

Mr. PROMATHA RANJAN THAKUR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that of the non-Bengalis the North West Frontier people get preference in the matter of appointment over others?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise

Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that out of 193 constables in the Calcutta Police there is not a single Bengali constable?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: That is not so. I believe at least over 100 constables are Bengalis

Maulvi ABDUL BARI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why non-Bengalis were at all recruited when Bengalis were largely available?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister give us an idea as to what are the standard measurements by which physical fitness is being estimated?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: There are certain measurements. I have not got them here but they are well known. I have also stated them in my replies to previous questions.

Establishment of Pabna Collectorate.

***237. Mr. ABDUR RASCHID MAHMOOD:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing for the last two years ending on the 31st December, 1938, in respect of the district of Pabna—

(a) the number of ministerial officers in the Collectorate;

(b) the number of new recruits;

(c) the number amongst the new recruits who are (1) Muslims and (2) Hindus; and

(d) the scale of pay of each of the posts to which new recruits have been appointed?

MINISTER in charge of the REVENUE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Bijoy Prasad Singh Roy): A statement is laid on the table.

Statement referred to in the reply to starred question No. 237.

	1937.	1938
(a) Number of clerks in the Pabna Collectorate		
Permanent	75	91
Temporary	42	56
Total	117	147
(b) Number of new recruits	14	42
(c) Number amongst the new recruits who are		
(1) Muslims	7	21
(2) Hindus	7	21
(d) Scale of pay of each of the posts to which new recruits have been appointed.	All on Rs. 35 per month (fixed).	Six on Rs. 35 2/2 55 per month and 36 on Rs. 35 per month.

Agricultural loan and gratuitous relief in Pabna.

*238. **Babu NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRAVARTY:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state—

(i) the actual flood level of the district of Pabna in the years 1931 and 1938, respectively;

(ii) the average amount of damage done by the floods in the respective years mentioned;

(iii) the amount spent as gratuitous relief and the amount spent as agricultural loan during 1931 and 1938, respectively; and

(iv) the amount realised until now out of the amount spent as agricultural loan in the year 1931?

(b) Has realisation of agricultural loan, distributed in the year 1938 begun?

(c) If so, what is the amount so far realised?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: (a) (i) It is not possible to give the actual flood level in any one year as this district is subject to inundation by two big rivers, viz., the Jamuna and the Ganges. The following figures however show the levels as recorded at the various gauges in 1931 and 1938:—

River and station.		High flood level in 1931.	Date.	High flood level in 1938.	Date.
Jamuna—					
Serajganj	..	44·60	1-8-1931	43·87	25-7-1938
Goalundo	..	31·009	16-8-1931	28·509	16-8-1938
Ganges					
Pabna	..	42·60	16-9-1931	42·75	20-8-1938
Goalundo	..	31·009	16-8-1931	28·569	16-8-1938

(ii) Average damage in 1931—55 per cent. and in 1938—66·6 per cent.

No report of serious damage to life and property was received in 1931. In 1938 also no report of serious damage to property was received and there was no loss of human life.

	Government grant.	District Board grant.
	Rs.	Rs.
(iii) Gratuitous relief—		
1931-32	43,882	Nil
1938-39	71,968	15,000
Agricultural loan—		
1931-32	4,48,626 (including Rs. 1,72,000 spent in 1930-31)	
1938-39	5,49,964	

(*iv*) Rs. 4,43,706.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) Does not arise.

Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKER: It is stated that the flood level of the year 1931 was much higher than the flood level of 1938, but the damage caused by the flood of the year 1931 was much less than that caused by the flood of the year 1938. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: The duration of the flood was longer; also the flood came much later.

Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKER: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the abnormal rise of flood in the Ganges in Pabna was due to the fact that the free flow of the flood water was obstructed by the Sera-Serajganj Railway line which is without a sufficient number of openings?

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Minister is only responsible for agricultural loans and gratuitious relief. If you want to know the causes of the flood, I am afraid you will have to ask some other department.

Floods at Panchkura police-station, Midnapore.

*239. **Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works (Irrigation) Department aware—

(*i*) that the area between rivers Cossye and the Kherai and the Buxi *khal* in Union No. 13, police-station Panchkura, in the subdivision of Tamluk in the district of Midnapore, is inundated every year by the flood water of the above mentioned rivers;

(ii) that the area remains submerged under water for several days causing damage to crops of the inhabitants of the area;

(iii) that representations have been made to the District Magistrate, Midnapore, on behalf of the inhabitants of the area praying for protection from the flood water;

(iv) that under instructions from the Government, the Assistant Engineer, Irrigation, Panchkura subdivision, had already made a preliminary survey of the area and submitted a report on the improvement of the drainage system in the affected area; and

(v) that the inhabitants of the locality have submitted another petition praying for another survey as suggested by the said Assistant Engineer?

(b) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any action has been taken on the said report?

(c) If the answer to (b) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he intends to take any action in the matter in this year? If so, when and in which line?

MINISTER in charge of the COMMUNICATIONS and WORKS DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Maharaja Srischandra Nandy, of Cossimbazar): (a) (i), (ii), (iv) and (v) Yes.

(iii) I have no information.

(b) and (c) The hon'ble member is referred to the answer given to part (b) of Mr. Sibnath Banerjee's unstarred question No. 46 on the subject printed at page 322 of Volume LIII, No. 1, Assembly Proceedings, Fourth Session, 1938.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: সভাপতি মহাশয়, মন্ত্রী মহাশয় আমার প্রশ্নের উত্তরে যা বোলেছেন তাতে আমার প্রশ্নের উত্তর দেওয়া হয় নাই।

Mr. SPEAKER: How does that question arise?

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: আমার প্রশ্ন হোচ্ছে এই যে Assistant Engineer সম্প্রতি একটা রিপোর্ট দিয়াছেন একটা খাল কাটা সম্বন্ধে এবং যাতে লেখা আছে Preliminary Survey of the area করা হয়েছে; এবং তাতে লেখা আছে যে ৫২০ টাকা খরচ করা দরকার আমার কথা হচ্ছে সেই ৫২০ টাকা—

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: Sir, the answer is quite simple. Government think that the difficulty in question would be solved by the application of Act IV of 1920.

Mr. PROMATHA RANJAN THAKUR: On a point of order, Sir. With reference to answer (*b*) and (*c*), viz., the hon'ble member is referred to the answer given to part (*b*) of Mr. Sibnath Banerjee's unstarred question No. 46 on the subject printed at page 322 of Volume LIII—No. 1, Assembly Proceedings, Fourth Session, 1938, the thing is that these answers are wanted for public information. But here the Hon'ble Minister has answered it in such a way that it is solely meant for the information of an individual member.

Mr. SPEAKER: I can do nothing in the matter.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: কিন্তু আমার প্রশ্নের এ উত্তর নয়। আমার প্রশ্নটা হচ্ছে এই যে এই report সম্বন্ধে গভর্ণমেন্ট কি action নিয়েছেন, সেইটা জানতে চাচ্ছি। মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয়কে বলেছি যে আমার প্রশ্নের উত্তর হয় নাই তবু তিনি কেবল উত্তরটা avoid কোরে যাচ্ছেন। আমি জিজ্ঞাসা কোরছি উক্ত রিপোর্টটি সম্বন্ধে গভর্ণমেন্ট কোন step নিয়েছেন কিনা? এর উত্তর categorically yes or no বলা উচিত, কিন্তু

Mr. SPEAKER: Will you be satisfied with the simple answer "Yes" or "No"? He has already stated that no steps can be taken under Act IV of 1920.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: সে রিপোর্ট সম্বন্ধে কোন action নেওয়া হয়েছে কিনা, মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় দয়া করে জানাবেন কি?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: The officer who undertakes an enquiry has only to state about the state of affairs, and he is not expected to suggest the Act under which it has been taken up.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: আমার প্রশ্ন হচ্ছে এই যে ৫২০ টাকা খরচ কোরে যে survey করবার কথা হয়েছে সেই ৫২০ টাকা খরচ কোরে survey কোরতে রাজি আছেন কিনা?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: On a point of privilege, Sir. I beg to submit that unless the Hon'ble Minister either sends his reply earlier or gives a full answer in detail, it is simply impossible for us.

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not think that it is at all a question of privilege.

Mr. PROMATHA RANJAN THAKUR: May I know, Sir, what is your ruling on my point of order?

Mr. SPEAKER: I did not consider it to be a point of order.

Appointment of Buchanan Physical Instructors.

*240. **Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state—

(a) how many Buchanan Physical Instructors have been appointed during his regime till 1938;

(b) how many of them are (1) Hindus and (2) Muslims;

(c) how many candidates applied for the posts;

(d) how many of them were (1) Muslims and (2) Hindus;

(e) were there any candidates from the district of Pabna;

(f) if so, what were their qualifications;

(g) was any candidate appointed from that district; and

(h) if not, why not?

MINISTER in charge of the EDUCATION DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq): (a) 28 appointments have been made to Government schools since February, 1937

(b) 18 Hindus and 10 Muslims.

(c) 62.

(d) 12 Muslims and 50 Hindus

(e) Yes. Two candidates were from the district of Pabna.

(f) They were graduates and held deplomas in Physical Education.

(g) and (h) Yes, one was appointed and the other was not appointed because his record was not sufficiently good to justify his appointment to Government service. He was placed 2nd class in one subject, and 3rd class in eight subjects during his training course.

Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: With reference to answer (b), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any instruction was issued to Mr. Buchanan, fixing the percentage of Muslims and Hindus to be appointed?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: The hon'ble member will notice that only 12 Muslim candidates appeared, out of whom 10 were taken, which works out to 83⅓ per cent. In the case of Hindus, 60 candidates appeared, out of whom only 18 were taken, which works out to 36 per cent. Even if all the Mahomedans were taken, the requisite percentage would not have been attained; unless a larger number of Muslims come forward to take training and offer themselves as candidates, nothing can be done.

Mr. PROMATHA RANJAN THAKUR: With reference to answer (*b*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many out of these 18 Hindus belong to the Scheduled Castes?

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr Thakur, I think you know sufficiently well that I have definitely ruled that where a question of definite percentage of appointments is raised, only such percentages can be referred to in a supplementary question No other things should be drawn in.

So far, therefore, as this question is concerned, it does not arise.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: With reference to answer (*f*), viz., they were graduates and held diplomas in physical education—will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if these are not considered to be the requisite qualifications then why were they given those diplomas?

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid, that question does not arise

Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if any representation was made to him that the cases of those two Muslim applicants were going to be neglected and disregarded?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order I am afraid, there are too many questions regarding the individual claims of candidates which do not come at all within the purview of a Legislature I can quite understand the grievances of any individual officer, but I hope members will realise that the functioning of a parliament would be impossible if questions were put regarding individual claims You can ask anything on principle, but the moment you are entering into the merits of an individual case, unless some principle is involved, I am afraid, you are going much beyond the real duties of a Legislature

Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any representation was made to him that the Muslim cases were going to be neglected?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Representations were received.

Maulvi ABDUL BARI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if any advertisement was made for the recruitment of these officers?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I believe, there were advertisements.

Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: What are the papers in which those advertisements were made?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I would like to have notice.

Rate of rent in temporarily-settled Government estate.

***241. Maulvi ABDUL HAKIM:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state -

(a) the name and number as recorded of the Government estate (Khas Mahal) on the temporarily-settled estate with the name of the district, in which the rent or revenue payable by tenants of that estate is high in comparison with those of all other such estates in the province; and

(b) the average rate of land revenue or rent, per acre, payable by tenants of that estate?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: The information is not readily available and Government consider that the expense and trouble involved in its collection will not be commensurate with the results to be achieved.

Supply of seeds of paddy and jute to the villagers of police-stations Itahar and Tapan, Dinajpur.

***242. Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that villagers of police-stations Itahar and Tapan in Dinajpur have submitted petitions to the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Agriculture and the Hon'ble Chief Minister respectively through the local M.L.A. for supplying them seeds of paddy and jute or loan for buying seeds for the next harvest?

(b) If so, what steps, if any, have been taken in the matter?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: (a) Only one unsigned petition purporting to come from tenants of the south-western portion of Itahar police-station but mentioning no villages and no names and addressed to the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture and Public Health Departments has been recently received.

(b) The petition is being forwarded to the Collector of Dinajpur for enquiry and necessary action.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he enquired from the Hon'ble the Chief Minister as to whether he received any petitions from the villagers of police-station Tapan?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: When Government replies to a question, I think, the honourable member can assume that proper enquiries have been made

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Does the Hon'ble Minister think it desirable also to write to the District Magistrate, in view of the answer just now given, for enquiry in the Tapan area, as I personally handed over the petitions received from the Tapan area?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise

Live-stock and poultry in Naogaon subdivision, Rajshahi.

*243. **Maulvi MANIRUDDIN AKHAND:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture and Veterinary Department be pleased to state what improvement, if any, has been made in

(*i*) the live-stock of the Rajshahi district especially in the Naogaon subdivision; and

(*ii*) the poultry farming in the Naogaon subdivision?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the activities of the Live-stock Officer or his Assistant in the Naogaon subdivision are not made public?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what action does he propose to take in these matters?

MINISTER in charge of the AGRICULTURE and VETERINARY DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Tamizuddin Khan): (*a*) (*i*) Rajshahi was one of the ten districts selected for cattle improvement in 1936. One hundred stud bulls were supplied free from Government of India grant. A Live-stock Officer and an Assistant were appointed in 1936. Two stockmen were appointed in 1938. Twenty-two stud bulls were issued to Naogaon subdivision These bulls are now the sires of many improved young stock in the district In addition over 7 lakhs of Napier grass cuttings have been issued free of charge.

(*ii*) Improvement of poultry was started in 1936-37. Since then cockerels of Chittagong, Rhode-Island Red and Leghorn breeds have

been issued in villages. There is a very fine poultry centre at Sonakanda. The progeny of these cockerels are now to be seen in villages, especially in Hapania Union Board.

It is considered that a great improvement has been made in Rajshahi with better poultry.

(*b*) No. The Live-stock Officer tours in the districts of Malda and Rajshahi; he visits Naogaon during these tours and meets Presidents of different Union Boards. The Assistant Live-stock Officer, Rajshahi, spends on an average 7 days every month in Naogaon subdivision. He stays in villages during his tour and his work is known to the villagers.

An exhibition was recently held in Badalgachi police-station and the officers attended the same.

(*c*) Does not arise.

Agricultural Farm in Suri, Birbhum.

***244. Dr. SHARAT CHANDRA MUKHERJI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture and Veterinary Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing for the agricultural farm at Suri in the district Birbhum—

(*i*) the total amount spent as establishment charges up to date since its start;

(*ii*) the amount spent monthly for the upkeep of the institution;

(*iii*) the amount received out of the sale-proceeds of the produce of the farm lands under cultivation; and

(*iv*) the number of demonstrators and other staff of the farm with their respective pay?

(*b*) What is the duty of the demonstrators in the district?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what educative help, if any, do the agriculturists in general get from the demonstrators in the improvement of cultivation?

(*d*) If the answer to (*c*) is in the negative, are the Government considering the desirability of improving the condition in such a way as will be of material benefit to the agriculturists?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: (*a*) A statement is laid on the table.

(*b*) The duties of demonstrators in this as in all districts are to carry on propaganda for improved agriculture mainly through field demonstrations at several demonstration centres on the lands of actual cultivators.

(*c*) Substantial educative help is rendered to the cultivators in selection of improved seeds and manures and of new crops suitable to various soils, also by demonstration of scientific methods of cultivation and free distribution of improved seeds, implements and manures.

(*d*) Does not arise.

Statement referred to in the reply to clause (a) of starred question No. 244

(*i*) Establishment charges from 1925-26 when the farm was started up to 1937-38 amounted to Rs. 13,995. This sum includes one-third of the pay of the District Agricultural Officer and of the Agricultural Demonstrator who, in addition to their duties at the farm, have to conduct propaganda and demonstration work outside the farm.

(*ii*) The average total monthly cost over the period 1925-26 to 1937-38 was approximately Rs. 340 per month.

(*iii*) Rs. 9,600-8-7. This sum does not include the value of farm produce transferred to other departmental farms.

(*iv*) The staff with their present rates of pay is as follows:—

One District Agricultural Officer—Rs. 200 per mensem.

One Demonstrator—Rs. 48 per mensem.

One Peon—Rs. 14 per mensem.

One Durwan—Rs. 15 per mensem.

One Clerk—Rs. 35 per mensem (post created in August, 1938).

As explained in (*i*) above, the District Agricultural Officer and Demonstrator have considerable duties outside the farm.

Cotton cultivation in Bengal.

***245. Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture and Veterinary Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) what action, if any, is the Central Cotton Committee taking for introduction of Cotton cultivation in Bengal; and

(*ii*) what portion of the Cess collected in the whole of India is contributed by Bengal?

(*b*) If no action has been taken by the Committee, what steps, if any, the Government propose to take in the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: (*a*) (*i*) The Indian Central Cotton Committee have contributed a sum of Rs. 18,540 towards the establishment of a Cotton Research Station at Rangamati where a five-year scheme for the improvement of short-staple cotton was started in November, 1934. This scheme has, for the present, been extended by the Cotton Committee up to 1st April, 1940. A proposal for extension of the scheme for a further period of five years is also under their consideration.

(*ii*) I have no definite information. I am told that Bengal's contribution towards cotton cess is in the neighbourhood of Rs. 10,000.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় কি বোলবেন long-staple cotton সম্বন্ধে কোন প্রকার প্রপাগ্যাণ্ডা হয়েছে কিনা?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Yes, Sir I answered a very elaborate question to the same effect the other day.

Maulvi ABDUL BARI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the activities of the Central Cotton Committee will be extended to all the districts in Bengal?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: That is for the Central Cotton Committee to say.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what the Central Cotton Committee has done towards increasing the growth of long-staple cotton?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Yes, Sir, it arises in this way. The Hon'ble Minister has just now said that it is for the Central Cotton Committee to say whether its activities will be extended to all the districts in Bengal. Now, long-staple cotton is the crying need of the province, and my question is: what the Central Cotton Committee has done towards increasing its growth

Mr. SPEAKER: I hope you are not anxious to have an "intermediate staple" cotton introduced (Laughter.)

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: My question has not been answered, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid you have yourself answered the question.

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: I have already said that a similar question was asked and answered the other day. So far as Government measures are concerned, some steps have already been taken, but I do not know what the Central Cotton Committee proposes to do.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Bengal Government have contributed any amount towards the scheme?

Mr. SPEAKER: Which scheme?

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: The scheme referred to in the answer.

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: I am afraid, not.

Maulvi ABDUL BARI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is in the contemplation of the Bengal Government to write to the Central Cotton Committee to extend its operations to all the districts in Bengal?

Mr. SPEAKER: Including Murshidabad? (Laughter.)

Maulvi ABDUL BARI: Yes, Sir.

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: These measures are more or less of an experimental character, and it is not possible to extend them throughout the province.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(to which answers were laid on the table)

Government Muslim High School, Dacca.

81. Mr. S. A. SALIM: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department aware—

(*i*) that the Government Muslim High School at Dacca having been separated from the Dacca Madrassah in 1916, was shifted to the present building temporarily, pending the availability of a more suitable house;

(*ii*) that the building of the school was originally meant for residential purposes;

(*iii*) that many distinguished visitors including the Maharajadhiraj of Burdwan, the then Executive Councillor, Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin, K.C.I.E., the then Minister of Education, and several Directors of Public Instruction, Bengal, recorded remarks from time to time as to the unsuitability of the building; and

(*iv*) that the physical side of the education of the pupils of the school is being hampered for want of a playground of its own and of sufficient open space for drill and other mass physical exercises?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is the contemplation of Government to remove the school to a more suitable site or to reconstruct the building in its existing site?

(*c*) Are Government considering the desirability of taking up in the near future the question of materialising their plan in respect to this school?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: (*a*) (*i*) to (*iii*) Yes.

(*iv*) The open space in front of the school, though inadequate, has, however, been widened to some extent by shifting the gate and the durwan's shed.

(*b*) The question of rebuilding the school on its present site was considered and a rough plan was drawn up in 1930. But it was found that while the accommodation provided in the proposed building might be enough for the requirement of the school, a serious drawback was the want of a playing field within the school premises and even of sufficient open space for holding a big class for drill. The alternative scheme, viz., the removal of the school to a better site, is more costly and has not therefore been taken up as yet for financial reasons.

(*c*) I will review the position.

Qualifications of the Officer-in-charge of Poultry Department.

82. Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture and Veterinary Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Officer-in-charge of the Poultry Department has only Dairy qualification?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, what are the reasons for placing the Poultry Department in charge of an officer who has no Veterinary qualification or special knowledge of Poultry?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: (*a*) The Officer-in-charge has been trained in poultry farming. This is included as part of the training required for the Dairy qualification which he holds.

(*b*) Does not arise, but I may point out that a Veterinary qualification does not necessarily connote any special knowledge of poultry farming.

Education of the Scheduled Castes students in Burdwan district.

83. Mr. BANKU BEHARI MANDAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state what amount has been spent for the education of the Scheduled Castes students in—

(*a*) Burdwan Sadar subdivision,

(*b*) Asansol subdivision,

(*c*) Kalna subdivision, and

(*d*) Katwa subdivision,

of the Burdwan district from the five lakhs set apart for the Scheduled Castes students?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Rs. 72 has been allotted to a student belonging to the Asansol subdivision out of Rs. 20,000 set apart from Rs. 5 lakhs for stipends to Scheduled Castes college students.

Mr. PROMATHA RANJAN THAKUR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether only a sum of Rs. 72 has been allotted for the whole of the Burdwan district?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: More will be given as applications are received, and I believe that there are some applications at present under consideration.

Jotedars and chukanidars in Jalpaiguri Khas Mahal.

84. Babu UPENDRA NATH BARMAN: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state the rate, applied in assessing different kinds of lands in Khas Mahal, Jalpaiguri, at the time of settlement, by Mr. Milligan and by Mr. Mukherjee?

(*b*) Is it a fact that since the time of Mukherjee settlement innumerable *jotes* have passed out of the hands of the agriculturists into the hands of professional money-lenders who are not agriculturists?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the number of *jotes* that have changed hands since the time whence the enhanced rate of the said Mukherjee settlement was enforced?

(*d*) Do the Government contemplate taking any measure to help the agriculturist *jotedars* and *chukanidars* in Jalpaiguri Khas Mahal? If so, what are those measures?

(*e*) If the answer to (*d*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason thereof?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: (*a*) A statement is laid on the Library table.

(*b*) and (*c*) Though 1942 *jotes* have changed hands since Mr. Mukherjee's settlements only 426 *jotes* have passed out of the hands of the agriculturists into the hands of professional money-lenders.

(*d*) To improve the condition of the Khas Mahal tenants, six agricultural demonstration farms have been established. Provision has been made in the budget of 1939-40 for establishment of six more agricultural farms. Improved seeds are being introduced through these farms. A five-year programme of cattle regeneration has also been drawn up and fifteen stud bulls will be distributed in the Khas Mahal area this year. To help the tenants in their cultivation provision has been made in the five-year programme for the opening of Jampois and irrigation channels.

Government also propose to take up the question of improving the rights of the Khas Mahal *jotedars* and *chukanidars* in connection with Mr. Stuart's report on Khas Mahal Administration.

(*e*) Does not arise.

Babu KHAGENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: With reference to answers (*b*) and (*c*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that these 426 *jotes* have changed hands mainly owing to the inability of the *jotedars* to pay the excessive enhancement of rent?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: The rate of enhancement was only Rs. 0-5-9 per acre.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Settlement Kanungos.

***246. Babu SYAMA PRASAD BARMAN:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state whether he gave an assurance—

(*i*) that the Settlement Kanungos would be absorbed in the permanent services; and

(*ii*) that a gratuity at the rate of one month's pay for each year of service would be sanctioned to them?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps, if any, have so far been taken regarding—

(*i*) sanction of gratuity; and

(*ii*) absorption of them in the permanent services?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: (*a*) In reply to Mr. Humayun Reza Chowdhury's resolution in the Council, that House was assured that there is every chance of Settlement Kanungos being absorbed either in permanent Government service or in being employed elsewhere in Settlement work, and that Government would review the previous decision, in regard to the amount of gratuity payable to these Kanungos.

(*b*) (*i*) This question is still under consideration

(*ii*) A list of suitable Kanungos has been circulated to different departments of Government for consideration when suitable vacancies occur

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of answer (*a*) that there is every chance of Settlement Kanungos being absorbed in permanent Government service, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is in the contemplation of Government to absorb them by promotion to the Bengal Junior Civil Service?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise here

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: It arises, Sir, in this way The Hon'ble Minister in his answer has given an assurance to the House that the Settlement Kanungos will be absorbed in permanent Government service

Mr. SPEAKER: But there are 250 types of Government service. Why do you select the Bengal Junior Civil Service? I am sorry, but your question does not arise here

Arial Bil Water-Hyacinth Control Scheme.

***247. Mr. MANORANJAN BANNERJEE:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture and Veterinary Department be pleased to state whether the Government contemplates abandoning the Arial Bil Water-Hyacinth Control Scheme in the present year.

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, is the Hon'ble Minister aware—

(*i*) that no announcement of Government's intention has yet been made in the Bil area;

(*ii*) that about 30,000 flood-stricken cultivators have cultivated their lands investing huge borrowed capital;

(*iii*) that they were encouraged in investing money by the local Executive Officer; and

(*iv*) that these cultivators will suffer loss if the Water-Hyacinth Control Scheme be not taken up immediately?

(*c*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the negative, is the Hon'ble Minister aware that there has been a feeling of agitation over the inaction in taking up the Arial Bil barricade construction in time?

(*d*) Are the Government considering the desirability of taking steps for the construction of the barricade immediately?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: (*a*) The scheme referred to is not a Government scheme though it has the strong support of Government and of the local officers. It is a scheme suggested, worked and paid for by the local people with the guidance and assistance of a Special Officer whom Government have provided and for whom Government pay. The work of this officer is to co-ordinate and to supervise the work of the local people. No question therefore of Government abandoning the scheme can arise. Provision has been made in the Agriculture Budget, recently voted, for the continuance of the Special Officer and the local officers have been informed of this fact.

(*b*) and (*d*) Do not arise.

(*c*) The construction of barricades is entirely a matter for the local people and it is for them to decide when and where such barricades will be built. As already stated, Government do not control this scheme which is in the hands of a local Committee but at the instance of the local officers they have appointed a Special Officer to co-ordinate local efforts and to supervise the work. My information is that the work is proceeding according to the plans of the local Committee.

Mr. MANORANJAN BANNERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that the Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur of Dacca, while he was in charge of this department, prepared a three years' scheme for the eradication of water-hyacinth in the Arial Bil area?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: If there was any such scheme, it was with a view to help the Committee.

Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the scheme of controlling water-hyacinth in the Arial Bil has succeeded?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Yes; in one year, the portion taken up was very successfully managed. The whole bil is being managed portion by portion and not the whole all at once.

Mr. MANORANJAN BANNERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the barricade which was constructed last year was done under Government control?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: I have already stated in my answer that there is a Special Officer who co-ordinates the efforts of the local Committee

Mr. MANORANJAN BANNERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that Government made arrangements with a contractor and the contractor prepared the scheme under Government control?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: The control, if any, is that exercised by the Special Officer.

Barisal Municipal election.

***248. Srijut NARENDRANATH DAS GUPTA:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that the last election of commissioners to the Barisal Municipality was held in March, 1938;

(*ii*) that no Municipal Board could be formed there for the delay in Government nomination; and

(*iii*) that a feeling exists there over the delay in giving nomination?

(*b*) Are the Government considering the desirability of nominating commissioners without further delay?

MINISTER in charge of LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja Habibullah Bahadur, of Dacca): (*a*) (*i*), (*ii*) and (*b*) Yes.

(*iii*) Government have no information.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons for having held up the nominations for nearly 12 months?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: The honourable member is aware that this department has changed hands several times recently.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state by what time these nominations are likely to be published?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: Very soon.

Meetings of the "Kisan Sabha" at Kishoreganj.

***249. Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Political) Department aware—

(*i*) that public meetings are being held often times by organisers of the "Kisan Sabha" in villages of the Kishoreganj subdivision in the district of Mymensingh;

(*ii*) that speeches are delivered directing the mass for withholding payment of their legal dues;

(*iii*) that one such meeting was held some time back in the High English School land at Bajitpur without the permission of the school authority; and

(*iv*) that the local police officers at the instance of the school authority visited the place but could not stop the meeting?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps, if any, have the Government taken or do they propose to take in the matter?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: (*a*) (*i*) to (*iii*) Yes.

(*iv*) When the police arrived the meeting was breaking up and no action was necessary.

(*b*) The situation is being carefully watched and such action as is necessary will be taken to curb the dissemination of dangerous doctrines.

Mr. PROMATHA RANJAN THAKUR: With reference to the whole answer, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the "Kisan Sabha" has been declared an unlawful assembly anywhere in Bengal?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: No.

Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: With reference to (*a*) (*i*) and (*ii*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state who are the persons responsible for such meetings and such speeches?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Of course, those persons under whose auspices the meetings were held

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: With reference to answer "Yes" in reply to question (*a*) (*iv*), namely, "that speeches are delivered directing the mass for withholding payment of their legal dues", will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are these legal dues which are meant here and what is the basis of the Hon'ble Minister's answer in the affirmative?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: The speeches of those delivered at the meeting

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what legal dues are meant here?

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid it is not the fault of the Hon'ble Minister that a certain question referring to a particular matter should be put by a member; it is the answer for which he is responsible. "This" is a printing mistake for "their"

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state since how long these meetings are being held in the subdivision of Kishoreganj?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: It is difficult to give definite dates, but these meetings have been going on recently for the last 4 or 5 months.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if withholding payment of rent was advocated in the meetings referred to at Bajitpur?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: That was one of the legal dues which was advocated in one of the meetings.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what were the other legal dues withholding the payment of which the speakers advocated?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: The chaukidari tax was one of the usual legal dues withholding payment of which was advocated.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state which speakers advocated withholding payment of rent and chaukidari tax at these particular meetings at Bajitpur?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I ask for notice.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the Kisan Sabha's programme is published and there is nowhere any item advocating withholding payment of rent?

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid, that question does not arise.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is his definite information that the Kisan Sabha has advocated withholding payment of rent and chaukidari tax?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: That is one of the reports.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the basis of that report?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: The speeches delivered at these meetings.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the source of that report?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Information received from Government reporters.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to lay on the table, for the information of the members of this House, some of those reports which would be evidence of the allegations made?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: It has not yet been challenged.

Pargana rate.

*250. **Maulvi ABDUL HAKIM:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state whether any rate of rent called the Pargana rate was fixed by Government for the tenants of each pargana at the time of granting the Permanent Settlement?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Pargana rates have been recorded in writing?

(*c*) If so, has that record been preserved by the Government of India together with the record of Permanent Settlement?

(*d*) If the answer to (*c*) is in the affirmative, is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of approaching the Government of India for the aforesaid record or a copy thereof?

(*e*) Is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of laying copies of the said record, if available, before the Revenue Enquiry Commission or the Rent Enquiry Committee, now working in Bengal?

(*f*) If not, why not?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: (*a*) No

(*b*) to (*f*) Do not arise.

Destruction of crops by floods and water-hyacinth in Tippera.

*251. **Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that the residents of the Konda and Gokarna Unions within police-station Nasirnagar, district Tippera, have submitted petitions to the Government alleging that the crops of a very large tract of those two unions are being destroyed since 1915 by flood and water-hyacinth;

(*ii*) that they have prayed for the remission of arrears of rent for the last four years of the low-lying areas where crops are being destroyed since 1915,

(*iii*) that they have stopped payment of the arrears of rent pending the decision of the Government in this matter; and

(*iv*) that they have submitted petitions to the Government for taking steps by putting bunds or embankments and by opening *khals* to stop the destruction of crops by water-hyacinth?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government have made an enquiry into the matter?

(c) Are the Government considering the desirability of acceding to the prayers embodied in the petitions?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: (a) (i) and (iv) No such petitions appear to have been received.

(ii) and (iii) Government have no information.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is meant by the expression "appear to have been received"?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise. It means what it says.

Debt Settlement Boards in Jessore.

***252. Khan Bahadur Maulana AHMAD ALI ENAYETPURI:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Co-operative Credit and Rural Indebtedness Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing, thana by thana, in the district of Jessore—

(a) how many Debt Settlement Boards have been established;

(b) what are their names;

(c) the number of cases filed in those Boards since their establishment; and

(d) how many of them have been disposed of up till now?

MINISTER in charge of the CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT and RURAL INDEBTEDNESS DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Mukunda Behary Mullick): (a) 158 Ordinary and 7 Special Debt Settlement Boards have been established up to February, 1939.

(b) A statement is laid on the Library table.

(c) 22,182 up to 31st December, 1938.

(d) 7,416 up to 31st December, 1938.

Personnel of the Debt Settlement Board of Uttar Hamchadi, Noakhali.

***253. Mr. SAYED AHMED KHAN:** (a) Has the attention of the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Co-operative Credit and Rural Indebtedness Department been drawn to the petition of Mokhlechur Rahman, village Jehanabad, post-office Kali Bijoy Nagar, Noakhali, complaining against the personnel of the Debt Settlement Board No. 1 of Uttar Hamchadi, Noakhali?

(b) If so, what action, if any, has been taken on the said petition?

The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: (*a*) No.

(*b*) Does not arise.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(to which answers were laid on the table)

Distribution of breeding bulls.

85. Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture and Veterinary Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing since the introduction of the scheme and upto January, 1939—

(*a*) the number of breeding bulls distributed by Government;

(*b*) how many of them have died;

(*c*) what are the causes of death in each case,

(*d*) how many of them have become useless for the purpose of breeding; and

(*e*) what are the causes?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: (*a*) 1,560.

(*b*) 208.

(*c*) Most of the animals died of Anthrax and other contagious diseases. Some of them also died of internal trouble and in East Bengal there were a few cases of death due to underfeeding and malnutrition.

(*d*) 15.

(*e*) Malnutrition and physical defects.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: With reference to (*b*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the amount of money lost through the death of 208 bulls?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware how many of these bulls died within three months of their arrival?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if there were reports from the District Magistrates

of Murshidabad, Hooghly and Howrah to the Livestock Officer complaining of the unserviceability of those bulls?

(No reply.)

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that one potent cause of death has been the putting in service of bulls of immature age?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: I want notice.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that physical defects mentioned in (*e*) have got to be examined properly before the bulls are purchased?

Mr. SPEAKER: This is a question for action and not for information.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: My next question would be, who has been responsible for this examination and if the bulls have been properly examined?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: I think the bulls were fully examined before they were purchased

Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether steps were taken against the persons who were responsible for the cases of deaths due to under-feeding?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: I think so If my friend wants to know of any specific case, I want notice

Erosion of the Brahmaputra.

86. Babu NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRABARTY: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works (Irrigation) Department aware—

(*i*) that the river Brahmaputra is again threatening the entire town of Serajganj;

(*ii*) that immediate protection work is necessary to save the largest part of the town including Government and private properties; and

(*iii*) that the local people recently held a meeting and appealed to the Government to take steps to check the tide of the river?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps, if any, does he intend to take in the matter?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: (*a*) (*i*) and (*ii*) and (*b*) The attention of the hon'ble member is invited to the reply which I have given to Mr. Abdulla-al-Mahmood's starred question No. 223 of the 20th March, 1939

(*a*) (*iii*) No representation has been received by Government.

Distribution of discretionary grant at the disposal of District Magistrate, Tippera.

87. Maulvi MUHAMMAD HASANUZZAMAN: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state the total amount of the "Discretionary grant" placed at the disposal of the Tippera District Magistrate for the year 1938-39?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing item by item the amount distributed by the District Magistrate to the south subdivision of Comilla?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: (*a*) Rs. 1,000 excluding Rs. 995 sanctioned by the Home (Political) Department for rural development.

(*b*) A statement is laid on the Library table. It is presumed that the information wanted is for the Sadar subdivision of Tippera.

A Point of Order.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: I rise on a point of order. His Excellency the Governor allotted 15 days for voting on demands for grants under rule 118 of the Standing Rules and Orders, but by this circular, that has been issued to-day, those 15 days have been reduced to 14 in view of the fact that there was no discussion yesterday. My point is whether this can be done?

Mr. SPEAKER: Yesterday after the adjournment I had a consultation with the Whip of Congress Party and as a result of that discussion this circular was drawn up. I have sent for the file to see what His Excellency's order is. I find that from 8th to 25th are the days fixed for voting on demands. It does not say 15 days but specific dates are mentioned.

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: You will remember that I pointed this out and was told that a Sunday intervened. I also suggested whether we could not follow the procedure of limitation not running out on Sunday, Monday being available.

Adjournment Motion.

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: Sir, I move that the business of this Assembly do adjourn to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, the hunger-strike of the workers in the Radha Krishna jute mill. I have got your consent.

Mr. SPEAKER: I want to be satisfied as to how does the responsibility of Government come in?

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: We expect that when the owners are locking out the men and cutting down their wages Government cannot sit silent——

Mr. SPEAKER: You are importing foreign matters. I want to be satisfied about one point, namely, what the exact responsibility of Government in this matter is?

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: Government is responsible for the lives of the men who are on stay-in strike and hunker-strike there.

Mr. SPEAKER: What is their responsibility? How can Government interfere?

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: Government can certainly go and try to settle the dispute.

Mr. SPEAKER: I quite understand your point. Government can go and try but because Government are not going how can you bring an adjournment motion?

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: I think Government is responsible in this way. It must go and try to settle the dispute. I am not personally in favour of hunger-strike. In addition to the hunger-strike there is a stay-in strike——

Mr. SPEAKER: I hope you will not do it in this House. (Laughter.) I want specifically to know how Government is responsible?

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir——

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid I cannot hear you. I must hear Mr. Banerji.

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: On this point my friend will submit my arguments.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: Over 200 workers have resorted to a stay-in strike in a factory which is under the Factories Act and therefore it is the direct concern of the Government of Bengal. If certain things happen in a particular factory which is under the jurisdiction of the Indian Factories Act then certainly it is Government's concern to intervene, to send factory inspectors to find out whether all the rules are being conformed, whether all the conditions required by the Factories Act and by other conditions of employment, whether from the standpoint of public health or any other standpoint are being rigorously and punctiliously observed in this particular factory.

Mr. SPEAKER: I understand your point. But I ask what is the urgency in this matter?

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: In this particular case certain grievances having arisen representations have been made to the Government and the matter has been made one of public concern. Now Government's indifference either to set up an enquiry or to intervene may result in a breach of public peace; disorder and other grave consequences may follow and this as a matter of fact is certainly a public concern and a concern of the Government, and should be tackled at the earliest opportunity. From all standpoint and considerations in every country in similar circumstances it is the duty of Government to intervene. Therefore this House would be perfectly in order in desiring to discuss this matter and in desiring to know what are the responsibilities of Government which have been left undischarged. That it is a definite matter of public importance and one of urgency is beyond any dispute whatsoever and unless this matter is admitted for discussion this House cannot adequately decide and find out what Government can do.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am asking you a question and you are making a speech. My question, what was put to Mr. Banerjee and which you undertook to answer, is this: You think that certain things should be done under the Indian Factories Act. What are those things which have not been done by this Government for which those people have gone on hunger-strike?

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: These men complain that they have to work under very difficult and irksome conditions and ask for certain improvements. These improvements are not granted, but wage cuts are effected. The men want conciliation and Government may appoint conciliation boards under the Indian Trade Disputes Act and thereby legally intervene in this matter. The provision is there. Government by not moving under the provisions of the Trade Disputes Act, by not setting up a board of enquiry has created a situation with the result that 200 men have gone on strike and are sitting inside the factory for so many days. This is precisely what the Government should have done in the matter, namely, set up a conciliation Board but which they have not done.

Mr. SPEAKER: May I know what Government have got to say?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I object. Sometime ago, I believe a similar motion was sent up to this House but very discreetly it was not moved. The stay-in strike began somewhere about the 13th March.

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not want any statement from you. I want to know what you have got to say about the admissibility of the motion?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: The strike was started very long ago, so there is no matter of urgent public importance at present to consider. Moreover, an isolated strike is not a matter of urgent public importance, for if it were so every strike would be a matter for an adjournment motion. There is no stay-in strike in existence. Not more than 68 persons were within the factory. All of them have come out. The statement that there are 12 persons on hunger-strike and that their condition is causing grave anxiety is incorrect.

There are no persons continuing the hunger strike. Almost everybody is having food except two persons who are not having solid food but are having liquid food. I do not see what is the urgency or where is the definite matter of public importance.

Mr. SPEAKER: There is one point, Mr. Banerjee. I find from your statement that the hunger-strike started on the 13th. Why didn't you move in the matter earlier?

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: On the first day or second day it was not such a grave affair. We thought it would be possible to pursuade—

Mr. SPEAKER: How many days after that did you move in the matter?

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: I moved on the 5th day. I put a short notice question to which no reply has been given so far by the Government.

Mr. SPEAKER: In a matter like this, where an adjournment motion is likely to be moved, I hope Government will realise that it is very desirable that answers should be given.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: That was a short notice question and I am not aware of it. I have not seen it.

Mr. SPEAKER: Something is wrong in the Secretariat. I definitely remember that it was sent on Monday last.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Sir, on a previous occasion when Government offered to answer a short notice question that was not accepted by the hon'ble member and an adjournment motion was insisted upon. What is the advantage in answering such a question?

Mr. SPEAKER: Where an adjournment is proposed to be moved and there is a short notice question to that effect it is desirable that Government should answer that question. Whether the reply is accepted or not is a different matter.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Even if I had received the short notice question how was I to know that there would be an adjournment motion to-day?

Mr. SPEAKER: Any time it may be moved. You should certainly know that.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I shall certainly answer that question, and I do not think the hon'ble members who spoke just now need be at all anxious with regard to the stay-in strike.

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister give a reply to-morrow?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Yes.

Mr. SPEAKER: I find it is a very difficult matter. I must say at the very outset that hunger-strike is a matter which must awaken the sympathy of everyone concerned. I can assure my friends that I feel when human lives are at stake that we should do our best with a view to help everybody concerned in the matter. But I hope my friends will realise my difficulty about the admissibility of the motion. Unfortunately he has not yet, beyond stating generally the responsibilities of the Government in the matter of Labour questions like wage cuts, or wage increase or other grievances, mentioned anything. So far as his statement is concerned it is altogether silent on this point. His statement merely says that this hunger-strike is a protest against the wage cut of 40 or 50 per cent. Nothing more has been mentioned as to the reason why the hunger-strike has been resorted to. Mr. Banerjee and later on Mr. Dutta Mazumdar have spoken about certain grievances none of which appears to be shown as the reason why this hunger-strike has been taking place. On the other hand, the definite statement is that 25 workers of such and such mill started the hunger-strike as a protest against the wage cut of 40 to 50 per cent. Nothing more as to the reason for the hunger-strike has been given. So far as the protest against the wage cut is concerned, he has said neither in his statement nor in his reply what steps have been taken with a view to make the responsibility of the Government definite. Nor have I been given any facts to show where Government have failed in their legitimate duties. It is quite easy to say, as my friend has said, that Government should go and settle the dispute, but here we are concerned with the legal responsibility of the Government. If my friends Messrs. Banerjee and Dutta Mazumdar had satisfied me on that point then it would have been all right, but I have not been satisfied so far as this particular motion is concerned, as it has been worded. I hope Mr. Banerjee will realise that the only reason why I am not admitting this motion is on the basis of his statement and there is nothing mentioned here either about the grievances or about the steps which have been taken by these people with a view to fixing the responsibility of the Government. As such the statement is defective and I hold that the motion is not in order.

A Point of Order.

Mr. SPEAKER: Well, I am afraid, Mr. Datta, the point of order which you raised a little while ago is not correct for this reason that so far as the voting on demands for grant is concerned, specific dates have been fixed by Government, namely, from the 8th to the 25th March. If the number of days had been fixed at 15, your point of order would have been quite valid.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Sir, 15 days were allotted.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am not concerned with that. I am concerned only with the fact that the dates have been fixed from the 8th to 25th. Whether it is 15 or 20 days it does not matter.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: As 15 days have been allotted from the 8th to 25th March, it amounts to a curtailment of one day.

Mr. SPEAKER: I was a lawyer at one time and I can very well argue the point. (Laughter.)

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

29—Police.

Mr. SPEAKER: Now, Mr. Gupta, I hope you will realise we have very little time at our disposal, and I want to finish this Police Budget, so that we may take up other items. Will you kindly tell me who are going to speak on behalf of your party? It should be two or three.

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: Sir, Messrs. Atul Krishna Ghose and Bankim Mukherjee will speak.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: May I know, Sir, when you propose to put the demand for grant to vote?

Mr. SPEAKER: I have got only 26 minutes and I have got three speakers. I shall allot 8 minutes to each speaker, and immediately after the prayer I shall call on you to reply.

(The debate on Demand for Grant under the head "29—Police" was then resumed.)

Mr. B. MUKHERJEE:

Mr. Speaker, Sir, গৃহসচিব মহাশয় পুলিশের ব্যয় বরাদ্দ সম্বন্ধে যে ভাষণ দিয়েছেন তাঁর সেই ভাষণের যথাযথ উত্তর দিতে হলে পরে তাঁরই মতন সময় না পেলে উত্তর দেওয়া সম্ভবপর নয়। যা হোক, এই অল্প সময়ের ভিতরেও অন্ততঃ দুই একটা বিশেষ প্রশ্নের জবাব দেওয়া আমি প্রয়োজন মনে করি। প্রথমেই বোলে রাখা দরকার যে রিপভ্যান উইঙ্কল সতর বৎসর ঘুমের পর স্বাধীন আমেরিকায় জেগে উঠে যেরূপ ভ্যাবাচেকা খেয়ে গিয়েছিলেন মহামান্য গৃহসচিব মহাশয় প্রায় সেইরূপ বিগত পঁচিশ বৎসর দেশের সমাজনীতি, অর্থনীতি প্রভৃতিতে যে সব বিপ্লব ও সমস্যা দেখা দিয়েছে তা থেকে দূরে ছিলেন এবং হঠাৎ রিপভ্যান উইঙ্কলের মতন ঘুম থেকে জেগে চার পাশের অবস্থার সঙ্গে নিজের খাপ খাচ্ছে না দেখে বিপর্যস্ত হোয়ে পোড়েছেন। এবং তিনি যে সত্যই এই নূতন শাসনতন্ত্রের মধ্যে বিপর্যস্ত হোয়ে পোড়েছেন তার আভাষ তাঁর এই ভাষণের মধ্যেই পাওয়া যায়। তিনি সমস্ত হাউসকে বর্তমান শাসনতন্ত্রে যে মৌলিক পরিবর্তন fundamental

changes এর কথা স্মরণ করিয়ে দিয়েছেন—সে সমুদায় যদি এই হাউসের স্মরণপথে আনবার পূর্বে তিনি নিজেই স্মরণ কোরতেন তাহলে বোধ হয় এপ্রকার ভাষণ দেবার দুঃসাহস তাঁর হতো না। তাঁর বোঝা উচিত যে ভারতবর্ষে যে সেই প্রাচীন স্বৈরাচার শাসনতন্ত্রের অবসান বা পরিবর্তন ঘটেছে, তার একমাত্র কারণ, আজ যে Law and Order রক্ষার দোহাই তিনি দিচ্ছেন, সেই Law and Order রক্ষা করা সম্ভব হয় নাই বোলেই বিগত বিশ বছরে সাম্রাজ্যবাদীরা নিজেদের ইচ্ছার বিরুদ্ধে বাধ্য হোয়েছে,— Constitution এর পর Constitution এই ভারতবাসীদের দিতে; এবং সেটা দান কোরে তারা কোন পুণ্য কার্য্য করে নাই, তারা কেবল নিজেদের সাম্রাজ্য রক্ষারই চেষ্টা কোরেছে। সাম্রাজ্যবাদী শোষণে ক্রমবর্দ্ধমান দারিদ্রের ভিতর যে হেতু বর্তমান order রক্ষা করা সম্ভব হয় নি সেই হেতু Provincial Autonomy নামে এই বর্তমান শাসনতন্ত্র ভারতবাসীর ঘাড়ে চাপানো হয়েছে। স্বৈরাচারী শাসকদল যখন দেখলে যে ক্রমবর্দ্ধমান দারিদ্র্যের ফলে ভারতবর্ষের সামাজিক ব্যাপারে এমন একটা সঙ্কটজনক পরিস্থিতির উদ্ভব হোয়েছে যার পরিণতি এবং সমাধান একমাত্র একটা agrarian revolution বা কৃষি বিপ্লবের মধ্য দিয়ে এবং যেহেতু সেইটে স্বহস্তে সম্পন্ন করাবার মতন সাহস বিদেশী সাম্রাজ্যবাদীদের নাই সেইহেতু তারা রাষ্ট্রব্যবস্থা যথাসম্ভব পরিবর্তন সাধন কোরে আজ ভারতবাসীর কাঁধে তার মৃতপ্রায় সমাজের শবদেহটুকু চাপিয়ে তাতে প্রাণ সঞ্চার করবার সামান্য ভারটুকু চাপিয়েছেন। কাজেই যে law নীতি দেশকে তার বর্তমান order পরিস্থিতি—দারিদ্র্য, দুর্ভিক্ষ, প্লাবন, চিকিৎসাহীন রোগ, শিক্ষাশূন্য পশুত্বের মধ্যে টেনে এনেছে সেই order এর পরিবর্তনের জন্যই এই নূতন শাসনতন্ত্রের আমদানী। মহামান্য মন্ত্রীমহাশয়ই কি সেই পুরাতন order পরিস্থিতি কায়েম রাখতে চান? রাখচেন কি? তাঁরা কি ফিরে আনতে চান সেই পুরাতন ব্যবস্থা order যাতে মুসলমানদের আইনসভায় শতকরা ৩০, তপশীলভুক্তদের শূন্য অংশ চাকুরী ও অর্থনৈতিক জীবনের উচ্চ অংশে হিন্দুপ্রাধান্য কায়েম রাখবেন সেই order? তাঁরা কি যে পরিস্থিতি রয়েছে সেইটে রক্ষা কোরতে চান? election এর পূর্বে কি তাঁরা সেই কথাই বোলেছিলেন? যে অবস্থাটা রয়েছে সেইটেকে বাঁচিয়ে রাখবার সদিচ্ছার কথা বোলেই কি তাঁরা ভোট সংগ্রহ কোরেছিলেন? না, সমস্ত বিভাগে, সমস্ত কিছুর ভিতরে revolutionary change আনয়নের আশ্বাস বাক্যে জনসাধারণকে প্রলুব্ধ কোরেছিলেন? শুধু কংগ্রেস আর লেবার পার্টির প্রোগ্রামই নয়, কৃষকপ্রজা পার্টির এবং এমন কি মোস্লেম লীগেরও যে প্রোগ্রাম তাও revolutionary programme একথা electorate দের কাছে যদি আগে বোলতেন, যে আমরা order রক্ষা কোরবো, যে অবস্থা রয়েছে সেইটেই রক্ষা কোরবো, তাহলে মহামান্য মন্ত্রীমহাশয়কে এই আরামের আসনে স্থান পেতে হতো না। এবং সেই সঙ্গে তাঁদের আরো জানা উচিত যে অর্ডার change হচ্ছে—সেটা তাঁরা কোরছেন না, সে change টা সমাজের পারিপার্শ্বিক অবস্থার দরুণ হচ্ছে। এবং যে order রক্ষা করা সম্ভব নয়, সেটা তাঁরা জোর ক'রে রক্ষা কোরতে পারবেন না। দৃষ্টান্তস্বরূপ আমি বোলতে পারি যে একটা তাল্পাবাড়ীকে যদি পতন থেকে রক্ষা কোরতে হয় শুধু খুঁটি বা চাড়া দিয়ে তা করা যায় না, তার উপর যে ভয়ঙ্কর load তার রয়েছে সেটাকে অপসারিত কোরতে হয়। তেম্নি আজকে আমাদের সমাজের ভিতর সবার ভিত্তিমূলক যে কৃষক সমাজ রয়েছে তার ওপরকার অসহ্য ভার থেকে তাদের মুক্তি দেওয়াই সমাজ রক্ষার একমাত্র উপায়। বিগত তিন বছর যাবৎ এই গভর্ণমেন্টের উপর কৃষকদের উপর থেকে অসহনীয় load সরাবার যে গুরু দায়িত্ব রয়েছে সেটা পালনের জন্য তাঁরা কি কোরেছেন? আমি challenge কোরছি বর্তমানে দেশের মধ্যে disorder আনবার জন্যে, lawlessness আনবার জন্যে বর্তমান গভর্ণমেন্ট যতটা দায়ী আমরা agitators রা ততটা নই। তাঁরা এই তিনটী বছরের মধ্যে এমন কোন কাজ করেন নাই যাতে কৃষকরা কৃতজ্ঞচিত্তে বোলতে পারে যে আমাদের উপর যে অসহ্য ভারের চাপ রয়েছে সেটা উল্লেখযোগ্যরূপে লাঘব করা হয়েছে। Tenancy Act এর ছিটেফোঁটা অদলবদলে যতটুকু কল্যাণ হয়েছে তা অস্বীকার করি না কিন্তু কৃষকের রেজেস্টিনের

বোঝা এতটুকু কমে নি। সুতরাং তাঁদের এই অমার্জনীয় অবহেলা ও অক্ষমতার ভিতর দিয়ে দেশের মধ্যে disorder যদি কিছু এসেই থাকে, তবে নিছক কড়া শাসনের জোরে তাঁরা যে law and order বজায় রাখার ধমক দেবেন তাতে আশ্চর্য হবার কিছু নেই।

তারপর তাঁরা আবিষ্কার কোরেছেন যে national democratic revolution আনবার জন্য আমরা বিশেষ ব্যগ্র, এবং যতশীঘ্র সম্ভব imperialism কে নিঃশেষে নির্মূল কোরে ভারতবর্ষে স্বাধীন রাষ্ট্রের প্রতিষ্ঠার জন্যও আমরা নাকি উদ্যোগী হয়েছি। কি লোমহর্ষণ আবিষ্কার! Political science এর এক আধখানা কেতাবও যদি পড়া থাকতো মহামান্য সচিবমহাশয়ের, তাহলে তিনি জানতে পারতেন যে দেশের ভিতর democratic revolution আনার চেষ্টাটা কিছু prime নয়। এ চেষ্টা দুশো বছর পূর্বে পশ্চিম য়ুরোপে হয়েছে, যুদ্ধের পর পূর্ব য়ুরোপে এবং বর্তমানে সমস্ত এশিয়ার বিভিন্ন দেশ এই democratic revolution এর phase এর ভিতর দিয়ে চোলেছে। সাম্রাজ্যবাদের অবসান এবং দেশের ভিতরে রাষ্ট্রীয় স্বাধীনতার উদ্বোধন, এসব কথা আলালের ঘরের দুলাল গৃহসচিব মহাশয়ের মস্তিষ্কে স্থান পায় না, কেননা তিনি ত কোনদিনই দেশের সমস্যার বিষয় বা স্বসমাজের উন্নতিকর কোন scheme এর কথা চিন্তা করেন নাই। তিনি ত কোনদিন দেশের স্বাধীনতার স্বপ্ন দেখেন নি। একমাত্র আত্মচিন্তা ছাড়া তাঁর মনে অন্য চিন্তা স্থান পায় না। অন্য চিন্তার স্থান যদি তাঁর মনে থাকতো তাহলে একমুহূর্তেই তাঁকে বুঝিয়ে দেওয়া চোলতো যে বাংলাদেশের এবং ভারতবর্ষের পক্ষে আজ সবচেয়ে প্রয়োজন সাম্রাজ্যবাদের অবসান কোরে democratic revolution আনয়ন করা, কিন্তু তাঁর মতন লোকের চিন্তাধারা অতটা উর্ধ্বে ওঠা হয় তো সম্ভব নয়। সেইজন্যই বোধ করি তিনি revolution এর চিন্তায় অতটা বিচলিত হোয়ে উঠে যারা detenue হয়েছিলো তাদের উপর কাল্পনিক কলঙ্কের যে সমস্ত অভিযোগ তাদের বিরুদ্ধে প্রমাণ হয় নাই কেবলমাত্র সন্দেহক্রমে যাদের আটক রাখা হোয়েছিল এবং কোনদিনই যাদের terrorist বোলে আমরা স্বীকার করিনিকো—

(At this stage the member reached his time-limit.)

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, we appreciate his delivery but not the contents of his speech.

Mr. SPEAKER: I would ask you, Mr Suhrawardy, not to interrupt in this way.

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Bengal Ministers ought to be ashamed of a confession of this character.

Mr. B. MUKHERJEE: Sir, I want two minutes more.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am perfectly at the disposal of the House, if the House desires that this debate may go on, cutting off the time of the other items. Having regard to the shortening of the period by yesterday's adjournment, the only other course is to sit for one extra hour. The members of the House should consider what should be done.

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: We are quite prepared to do that. But for the time being, may I ask you to allow two minutes more to Mr. B. Mukherjee to conclude his speech, and to take away those two minutes from the time to be allotted to Mr. Atul Krishna Ghose?

Mr. SPEAKER: In that case I have no objection to allowing two minutes more.

Mr. B. MUKHERJEE:

Mr. Speaker, আমি বিষয়টা প্রায় শেষ কোরেই এনেছি। যাদের বিরুদ্ধে গৃহসচিবের মন্তব্য অত্যন্ত তীব্রভাবে প্রকাশিত হয়েছে তাদের বিষয়টা একটু বোলেই আমি আমার বাক্তৃতা শেষ কোরবো। যেসমস্ত যুবক তাঁদের রাজনৈতিক চিন্তার ও আত্মোৎসর্গের ভিতর দিয়ে জেলেই জীবনটা প্রায় শেষ কোরে দিয়েছে, মন্ত্রীরা কি আশা করেন যে তারা আজ জেল থেকে ফিরে এসে নিজ নিজ গৃহের সীমাতেই আবদ্ধ হোয়ে শিশুর মতন নিরুদ্বেগ-জীবন যাপন কোরতে থাকবে? অথচ তাদের যারা সন্ত্রাসবাদে বিশ্বাস করতো তারা সেই তত্ত্ব ও সেই নীতি আজ ত্যাগ করেছে শুধু এই জন্য যে আজ মহত্তর আদর্শ, বৃহত্তর সম্ভাবনা ও প্রকৃষ্ট পন্থা তাদের চোখের সামনে খুলে ধরেছে কৃষকেরা তাদের জাগ্রত রাজনৈতিক চেতনা দিয়ে—এই পন্থায় সাম্রাজ্যবাদের অবসান করবার দেশের ও সমাজের পরম কল্যাণ সাধনের দায়িত্ব তাদেরই। আজ বর্তমান গভর্ণমেন্টের এসম্বন্ধে ব্যাকুলতার সত্যিকারের কারণ বুঝতে পারা যায়—মহামন্ত্রীর বসিরহাটের Speech এর ভিতর দিয়ে। কৃষক সভার অভিযান দিনের পর দিন দিকে দিকে সফলতার দিকে এগিয়ে চলেছে দেখে ভীতিব্যাকুল হয়ে তিনি বলেছেন যে election এর পূর্বে অনেক প্রতিশ্রুতি তিনি দিয়েছিলেন, এখন দায়িত্ব ঘাড়ে পড়ায় বুঝতে পারছেন সেসকল প্রতিশ্রুতি রক্ষা করা কঠিন। যেহেতু আমরা জনসাধারণকে সেই প্রতিশ্রুতির কথা ভুলতে দিতে চাই না; যেহেতু ইসলাম বিপন্ন একথা বারবার বলা সত্ত্বেও মুসলমান সমাজকে কৃষক সমিতির সংস্রব থেকে বিরত রাখা সম্ভবপর নয় এবং যেহেতু এটা তারা বুঝতে পেরেছেন যে যদি কৃষকদের মধ্যে এইরকম প্রোপাগেণ্ডা অবাধে চোলতে থাকে তাহ'লে আসন্ন নির্বাচনে তাঁদের এ সুবিধা থাকবে না, সেইহেতু ডেটিনিউদের approachment কে revolutionary নাম দিয়ে যদি হটিয়ে দেওয়া যায়, কৃষক সভাগুলিকে যদি উৎখাৎ কোরে দেওয়া যায় তাহলে আগামী election এ তাঁরা ফসল হতে পারবেন।

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 2,14,55,000 under the head "29—Police" be reduced to Rs. 100 in order to raise a discussion about the curtailment of civil liberties, the freedom of press, the raising of the number of Sub-Inspectors and of expenditure to train police officers.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had no mind to discuss the Police budget from the political philosophical point of view, which has been unfortunately thrust upon us by the Hon'ble the Home Minister. I had a mind, Sir, to discuss it purely from the financial point of view. It would have been better for the Hon'ble the Home Minister to have indulged in such phraseology as "Islam in danger", but he has committed a great blunder in indulging in political philosophy which is none of his business. The accusation which the Hon'ble the Home Minister has brought against the politically-minded youths of Bengal runs thus:

"They openly describe themselves as the vanguard of the revolutionary masses, who stand for a social transformation that will admit of the complete freedom of the masses and of their fullest self-development. With such end in view, they say, they aim at present at a national democratic revolution which will overthrow Imperialism and make India a Sovereign State."

Sir, I would like to ask my young friends of the Coalition Party whether they want India to be a Sovereign State or not. I would like to ask them whether they want to overthrow the British Imperialism in India, and I want to know whether or not they want the fullest expression of the masses. If these are the ideals of the revolutionary group of Bengal, if these are the ideals of the politically-minded youths of Bengal, then I myself claim to be one of those revolutionaries and I am prepared to accept any punishment for that. I say this not because I am speaking within the precincts of this Assembly House, but I want to assert this all round the city and I hope every honourable young man in the country will join with me when I say that I am prepared to embrace any punishment that the Hon'ble the Home Minister may impose on me. I am sure that if there is any youth in Bengal, they will take up this challenge of the Hon'ble the Home Minister. The Hon'ble the Home Minister has tactfully forgotten this or perhaps he has introduced this thing in his speech, so that he can get the Police budget passed easily. But he should remember that this kind of revolution to overthrow British Imperialism is quite constitutional, and even, legally, the Government cannot put a stop to it. The Hon'ble the Home Minister, if he has a Secretary of his own or any helper, ought to have been reminded by him of this fact and the state of things existing in the year 1939. If, however, the Hon'ble the Home Minister wants to go back to the 18th century he may certainly do so, but we are not prepared to accompany him to those remote times.

Now, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the actual facts and figures of the budget with which we are confronted, and which will be of great use to us.

The Calcutta Police, Sir, reigns supreme, as it did formerly. The number of sergeants, though it has not increased, is still the same. The Retrenchment Committee made many suggestions and tried to persuade Government to reduce the number of Deputy Commissioners, but Government paid no heed to it whatsoever.

Then we come to the Temporary Force. The expenditure under this head comes to Rs. 1,40,000. The clothing charges absorb more than Rs. 1,28,904. This is a sheer waste of money.

Then, Sir, we come to District Police, which reveals a similar state of affairs. I do not know what has prompted the Hon'ble the

Home Minister to increase the number of the temporary staff and also what are their other functions.

Then we come to the Criminal Investigation Department, under which head the expenditure for Temporary Forces comes to Rs. 2,67,634. The most deplorable factor which I find this year under this item is the expenditure on Secret Service which, I find, comes to Rs. 1,75,000. In the previous year, it was Rs. 2,00,000. After the release of detenus, I do not understand, Sir, why so much money as Rs. 1,75,000 has been allotted this year for the purpose of carrying on Secret Service duties.

Now, Sir, I would like to refer to one point, viz., regarding the corruption in the department under the Hon'ble the Home Minister. Sir, we have heard the story of many religious factions before this, but ever since the formation of the present Cabinet what has pained me most—and I would draw the attention of the House to this fact—is that whenever there is any Muslim Leaguer concerned, he gets every patronage from the police and the Subdivisional Officers to oust all his opponents, irrespective of whether they are Hindus or Muhammadans. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not raising any Hindu-Muslim question in this connection, but I would like to draw your attention to the fact that even within the Muhammadan community, when there are two gentlemen, particularly if there is one gentleman who represents the League, he gets every facility and every support from police officers and from Subdivisional Officers, so that he can oust the other Muhammadan gentleman. It is not a Hindu-Muslim question, but it is a problem that as soon as a man becomes a Leaguer, be he a thief or a goonda or a scoundrel, he is supported by the police officers. One such case occurred in my district in the Narail subdivision. One Gopal Fakir, President, Joypur Union Board and Secretary of the Union Relief Committee in Jessore, who was put into *hajat* for misappropriation of funds, was discharged and given every help by the police and the Subdivisional Officer of Narail, simply because he agreed to serve the cause of the Muslim League party. Sir, I would draw your attention to this fact, and I would like to have a thorough enquiry made into this matter, and I would further like to know whether such things are going on within the knowledge of the Hon'ble the Home Minister himself, or with his connivance, or are they going on without his knowledge? We cannot make out, Sir, whether such things are being done with the connivance of officers in his department or without their knowledge. If this sort of corruption is allowed to continue, I am afraid the whole society will be dislodged and all sorts of bribery and corruption will prevail, which, in these days, we are not going to tolerate——

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit, resumed his seat.)

Mr. SPEAKER: I find that there is just enough time for one speaker to deliver his speech, and that too for three minutes. With the connivance of a party whip a lottery was held of the members who desire to speak, and I find Mr. Nishitha Nath Kundu's name at the top of the list. (Laughter.) I therefore call upon Mr. Nishitha Nath Kundu to speak.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 2,14,55,000 be reduced by Rs. 100 to discuss the conduct of several police officers of Dinajpur in respect of the death of one Adhar Barman of village Shibpur in police-station Kotwali, who was called into police custody in connection with the investigation of a dacoity case and afterwards seen hanging from a mango tree by the side of a union board road.

Sir, this is a cut motion not to discuss the budgetary policy or the policy of the Central police administration but to draw the attention of Government to the overzealousness displayed by particular officers of the Police Department. There was a dacoity in village Shibpur, police-station Kotwali, in Dinajpur district, in the latter part of July, 1938. The police went to the village and held camp in the house of one Chasiruddin, i.e., the person in whose house the dacoity was committed. Dhir and Adhar Barman were called into camp by the police on Friday, the 5th August at night, and after that Dhir was released on Saturday night, but Adhar was not released, and on the morning of the 7th he was seen hanging from a mango tree by the side of a union board road leading from Chasiruddin's house, where the police held the camp. Now, though the police was at a distance of one mile from the place of occurrence, they did not reach there till 6-30 p.m. on that day. Further, the police did not care to arrange for sending immediately the body for *post-mortem* examination to Dinajpur.

Dhir Barman who was released came to Dinajpur and lodged a complaint with Mr. S. Karim, Deputy Magistrate, first class, who investigated the case, held an inquest on the dead body and examined certain witnesses. He was definitely of opinion that his death was not caused by any activity on the part of himself (Adhar Barman). He concluded his report by saying that his death was not suicidal but homicidal. There was a complaint in which the allegation was that police officers including one Sadar Inspector of Police and two Sub-Inspectors were responsible, but only one Sub-Inspector was summoned in the case, and after trial, he was acquitted. There was a motion before the District Judge. The District Judge observed that throughout the investigation was done in a very shabby, slovenly and haphazard manner. The

police officers who were complained against were not suspended: they were kept at large so that investigation could not be properly made, as it was in many ways handicapped.

Sir, without making any comments myself, I want to read out some relevant observations from the report of the enquiring officer. These are as follows:—"The above facts are quite sufficient to prove to the hilt that the deceased Adhar did not commit any suicide and that due to the activities of some person other than himself his death was due. In short it was a mere show of a suicidal hanging, but never a case of real hanging". There are many reasons and facts for a conclusion like this. It will not be possible for me within the short time allotted to me to read out all the facts and circumstances. I will try to read out a few relevant facts from his report: "the head was turned sideways towards the left shoulder and the knot of a twisted rope which was two-fold was above the right ear on the border line of the hairs of the head."....."There was also ample slackness in the ligature formed by the rope—the knot lying just above the right ear. It is impossible that a man should die of suffocation due to such hanging" ....."Strangely enough neither the ground nor even a grass was disturbed just below the feet. There was the total absence of any mark of struggle at the spot of his hanging. The branch of the tree is sufficiently stout not to bend down on (?) the weight of the body"... "The palm of right leg was found wholly resting upon the ground and the toes of fingers of the left leg also upon the ground. Were it a death by suicidal hanging the man under no circumstances could have the palms of his legs thus resting on the ground? If they are found at all in such a touch with the ground, the man could never have died of hanging. He would be saved from his intended death by even the support of his one leg." ....."It is really an unheard-of thing that though the dead body was hanging in an open space in the village, the police residing only about one mile off should be fully ignorant about it until 5-30 p.m."

I may also point out the circumstances under which the investigation took place. The enquiring Magistrate writes like this: "When I first stepped into the *bari* of Chasir doctor I met chaukidars, constables, officer-in-charge, Kotwali, Inspector, Sadar Circle, Presidents, Union Boards Nos. 2 and 3, and others. I find no ostensible reason for the Presidents and others to be present there at that particular hour in the Police camp. They were all taken by surprise on our appearance. The Presidents, Union Boards, in my opinion, were already at the hands of Police by that time and nothing but a repetition of the facts entered in the diary of Saturday could have been expected of them. They were perfectly true to their ideal and they accordingly made their best attempts to repeat the facts entered in the diary while deposing before me. But when I compared the

evidence given by Banchharam Roy, Haji Hoar Mohammad and Mofizuddin Ahmed with that given by Dr. Jahiruddin and Chasiruddin, Jamiruddin and Dodha Mohammad—the three inmates of the house, I cannot but be convinced of the falsity of the contention". This is how the entire investigation was conducted. The truth could not come out as the witnesses were all won over or threatened, and the Police officers were not suspended nor taken into police custody. Though there are two decisions against the case, the fact remains that it was not a case of suicidal hanging but of homicidal hanging. What I would request the Hon'ble Minister is that either the Government should prefer an appeal to the Hon'ble the High Court against the order of acquittal or order a fresh enquiry into the circumstances of the case which might be conducted freely and properly or take departmental steps so that such things may not occur again. This is not the first instance. The Hon'ble Minister might remember that there was a question in 1937 in connection with the death of one, Abdul Sheikh, who died in police custody. The question and answer are published at page 1184 of Volume LI, No. 4 of the Assembly Proceedings. I would request the Hon'ble Minister to assure us that such things would not happen again in future.

(Here the member having reached the time-limit, resumed his seat.)

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Sir, I would request you and the honourable members to realise that I have to answer at least half a dozen different motions, moved in this House, and to reply to over a dozen speakers who have raised various issues in course of the debate. I will, therefore, request that sufficient time be given to me to reply, as far as possible, to all the points that have been raised.

Sir, I am glad to find that excepting a couple of speeches, the general tone of the criticisms levelled against the Police budget, is much more sober and different in tone from what used to be the previous practice. I feel, Sir, that there is a realisation by the members of this House that conditions have changed and that Government is now responsible to the Police——

(Laughter.)

(Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU AND OTHERS FROM THE OPPOSITION BENCHES: "Yes, quite right; Government is responsible to the Police.")

Mr. SPEAKER: It is such a good joke, and I would like to adjourn the House now.

The House was then adjourned for 15 minutes.

(After adjournment.)

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: As I was saying Government——

Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: May I rise on a point of order? I do not know whether it is a point of order. Since the Hon'ble the Home Minister has admitted that Government is responsible to the Police, is it necessary for him to waste the time of the House any longer?

Mr. SPEAKER: You will soon find that he will undo what he has said.

Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Will Sir Nazimuddin consider this point and desist from keeping us longer?

Mr. SPEAKER: I was just now reading a book on Humours of Parliament. (Laughter.)

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I expect the Deputy Leader of the Opposition to be more serious than what he appears to be.

As I was saying Government are responsible to the public through their representatives in the Legislature and it is my aim and object to make the relationship between the public and the police more cordial and that the police should be popular and looked upon as friends of the public. With this end in view I have time and again impressed upon the Inspector-General and the officers of the police force the necessity of being courteous and of dealing fairly and justly with all those with whom they come in contact. I am very fortunate that the Inspector-General of Police has not only accepted my policy but is working whole-heartedly in co-operation with me and has impressed upon the force the necessity of courtesy and fair dealing towards the public. The various members of the House not only during this discussion but in the past have repeated that the mere sight of the *lal pagri* in the villages instils fear in the hearts of the villagers, but it is curious that whenever any proposal is made to withdraw a police outpost or a thana station from any locality there are immediately representations from one and all that the police outpost should not be withdrawn. May I ask the members of the Opposition whether this is a sign that the police is unpopular or not wanted or whether on the other hand it is the desire of the public that the police should be there? Recently one of the members of this House took me over to his constituency where, at a very large public meeting, a demand was made

on behalf of the public that a particular outpost which had been abolished should again be reinstated there. Therefore, it is obvious that this kind of misrepresentation is not going to do any good. After all, there are black sheep in the police force; no one can deny that, but it is extremely discouraging that the police force as a body in season and out of season should be condemned and made out to be simply a body of black-guards. If it is the desire of the people that the police should improve and change, it is necessary that the attitude towards the police should also change. I consider this most important.

Let me point out another thing which is also very frequently represented in this House, but where again the co-operation of the public is essential.

Let me point out the question of bribery and corruption. First of all, it is a well-known fact that a certain amount of bribery and corruption exists in practically every department of Government and also of local bodies, such as Corporation and various other local bodies. But I submit that the amount of punishment and action taken in the police force on this account cannot be compared with any other department. As regards the Police Department, Government are more particular and whenever a case is brought to their notice and a man is found guilty he is dealt with ruthlessly. I may state that is the only way in which you can do away with, or at least reduce, corruption. It is also a well-known fact that whenever action is taken against a man, attempts are made by the public or a responsible section of the public to press upon the person who makes the complaint to withdraw it.

I know of two cases and I will state them. One complaint was made by a responsible person against a police officer for highhandedness and ill-treatment in Calcutta. He made several representations to one of my colleagues and also to me. He was most anxious that something should be done. I asked the Commissioner of Police to hold an enquiry. As soon as an enquiry was made, his friends and very likely the friends of the police officer, got hold of him and made him withdraw his charge. The responsible people who make the complaint whenever approached by the persons complained against generally ask that they may be let off. That is the general attitude of the public. I will cite another instance. Personally, I made a complaint against one of the police officers who dealt highhandedly with a servant of mine. I sent a complaint to the Commissioner of Police, and asked him to investigate into the matter. Soon after when this man was suspended, he got hold of some people whom I know and who made recommendations to me to let off this man. This is generally the attitude of the public.

Another case. An M. L. A. brought a complaint against an officer for bribery. I had an enquiry made. But what did we find? Responsible local people did everything possible to suppress facts and

get that charge withdrawn. I submit that if you are really anxious that bribery, corruption and highhandedness should cease, then the issuing of a circular or the appointment of committees will not do. There is only one way in which it can be done. In every case where a man has been proved guilty he should be dealt with ruthlessly and that is the only way in which it can be done. There, again, it is necessary that the public should co-operate. They should not come to Government or to officers and request that the man should be let off. This tendency on the part of Indians that although the man may be guilty because he has asked to be excused he should be let off must go.

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Why should the Government oblige by withdrawing?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Government do not withdraw, but the complainant withdraws the charge. That is generally the case. It is not that the Government give up the enquiry, but there is no evidence. No action can be taken when the complainant withdraws the charge. That is the difficulty.

Now I can assure this House that as far as the Inspector-General of Police and the Commissioner of Police are concerned, they are doing their level best to deal with this problem and I have again and again insisted on this that not only corruption and bribery but also highhandedness and *zulum* must cease. I am receiving co-operation from the heads of the Police force and I expect that there would be co-operation from the public as well.

Now, Sir, there is another point to which I would like to refer and that is the nature of the complaints that are made. During the course of the debate two honourable members of this House made certain allegations, and in both the cases the facts are so contrary that it is surprising how responsible members of this House could have made such allegations For example; Maulana Maniruzzaman Islamabadi said that the police committed highhandedness in interfering with the Town Hall meeting over the Calcutta Municipal Amendment Bill convened by Mr. Nurannabi I have already stated in this House that the police only went there after the assaults had started and when indiscriminate assaults were going on and then and then only from down below the police went up to the first floor and did their level best to save those who were being assaulted and separate the two contending parties. To come forward here and put the blame on the police on an incident of that kind shows how difficult it is to place any reliance on complaints which are so exaggerated. And still worse is the complaint of Mr. Zaman who said that when he visited Titaghur he was prevented by the millhands from getting down from his car. I could describe in plain English language what I think of a statement

like that, but it is very difficult to say in parliamentary language. I can only say what an outrageous prevarication of facts that statement was——

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Put it in Government language!

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: And how difficult it is to place any reliance whatsoever on complaints of that nature where a member could be guilty of such gross misrepresentation.

Now, Sir, there is another point that has been raised by Mr. Nishitha Nath Kundu. I am afraid it came very late and it will take some time, but I would like again to say that it is a serious complaint. In this case I have gone through the papers very carefully, and, in spite of the report of the Deputy Magistrate, I am satisfied on the results of the judgment delivered by the Subdivisional Officer and the judicial enquiry held under section 177, and in view of the judgment delivered by the Judge, and a motion was made before him as an appeal against the order of the Subdivisional Officer—there was no justification for the conclusion which the Deputy Magistrate arrived at In spite of these two things when I have had ample material to show——

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: On a point of order, Sir. Is the Hon'ble Minister entitled to cast any reflections on the judgment of a Deputy Magistrate as a Judge? He is now casting reflections. He may quote the order of a Judge sitting over him, but he cannot in his own way make any observations derogatory to the judgment.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: It was not a judgment. It was an inquest report. As against that report, there was on the other side a definite judicial decision of the Subdivisional Officer and of the District Judge. But even then, in view of the curious nature of the case, I felt that I would like to satisfy myself further if I could and, therefore, I placed all the papers without disclosing the names before Major Dabiruddin Ahmed, who is what may be called an expert on *post-mortem* examinations. He gave me to understand, after reading these papers over, that the conclusions to which the Deputy Magistrate came, in his inquest were not correct. What is more. He stated that from the papers and statements placed before him it appeared that the chances were in favour of suicide. He further said that although he had conducted more than 4,000 *post-mortem* examinations, the only cases in which he found the presence of seminal fluid were in the cases of suicide by hanging. Therefore, I am satisfied that as far as this case is concerned, whatever may be the fact, it was a question of suicide and not of any kind of highhandedness or *zulum* on the part of the police.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: What about the deposition of the Civil Surgeon?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order. You know very well, Mr. Kundu, that there cannot be any arguments at this stage. You have made your point. The Hon'ble Minister is now replying. If you want, you can bring up further relevant matters at a later stage when occasion arises.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Sir, I shall now deal with the question of the cost of the police. Before I do that, may I state this? There is another way in which we can deal with these cases of corruption and bribery, highhandedness and *zulum*, and various other things. In every case that is brought to my notice an investigation is held and I have made it plain to the Inspector-General of Police and other officers that I want not only to be told that there is no evidence but I want to be given sufficient evidence, sufficient material, so that I may be in a position to satisfy all those who complain that their allegations are not correct. At the same time, I have told the Inspector-General of Police—and the Inspector-General of Police is fully co-operating with me in this respect—that the idea of shielding officers for the sake of prestige is a false one and if any officer is found guilty he will not be shielded but will be duly punished. Therefore, I want to make it very clear that we are trying our level best to raise the standard of the police force and to see that they are a credit to the province, that they become popular and that they serve the community and the country in a manner which is desirable.

As regards the cost of the Bengal Police, I would like to thank Mr. Abul Hossain for drawing the attention of Government to the fact that if we want to have an efficient police force, it is necessary that we should treat them like human beings and that we should look to their amenities and comforts because a discontented police force cannot be an efficient one. And for this reason in this year's budget we have provided for certain items which are absolutely essential for giving them a decent living and a decent condition. Sir, we are insisting on doing away with corruption, doing away with highhandedness, but it is also necessary at the same time that we should see that their necessities are looked into and for that reason some of the expenditure in the budget has been provided for. (A voice from the Congress Bench: That is why palatial buildings have been provided!) Sir, I am quite prepared to reply to these interruptions, but I shall not do so as it would take a lot of my time.

Now, Sir, Mr. Monoranjan Bannerjee has referred to the recruitment of police constables from Bengalis. As far as Bengal Police is concerned, the unarmed branch is entirely recruited from Bengalis. As

far as the Calcutta Police is concerned, if the right type of men with the requisite qualifications are available we are prepared to take every Bengali in the Calcutta Police, and I am making special arrangements to get them. As regards the Scheduled Castes representation in the police, I hope to provide kitchens for them next year; and then to recruit Scheduled Castes policemen in larger number. A separate kitchen stood in the way, and we are trying to do away with that by constructing a number of kitchens for Scheduled Castes policemen. In this way I am trying to increase the number of policemen from the Scheduled Castes.

Then, Sir, a suggestion has been put forward that the Public Service Commission should be utilised for recruiting Sub-Inspectors. I submit that it is not at all practical. But I am certain, and I can speak with a great deal of emphasis and boldness, when I say, that they cannot cite a single case of nepotism, as far as the Police Service is concerned, during our term of office.

Another thing, Sir, I want to emphasise upon is the speech I made when bringing forward my main demand. There I have stated about the revolutionary activities of young men in this country. It has been said that it is a bogey that I have put forward before the country. I maintain that what I have stated then is not based on the reports of police officers or on any secret information; it is not the figment of my imagination, it is writ large not on the walls but in the newspapers which we read every day. And what is more, in spite of the righteous indignation of my friend, Mr. B. Mukherjee, let me tell him what Mr. Rajagopalachari said. My remarks are addressed to those who were boarding a gaudily painted boat which was leaking and was bound to sink with those who travelled in that boat—to those people are my remarks directed.

Sir, as far as the Kisan Sabhas are concerned, it appears that special arrangements have been made by the Bihar Government for taking down notes of speeches of those who speak at the Kisan meetings. I ask the House to judge whether this movement is constitutional or unconstitutional, whether it is in the best interest of the province, whether it is going to lead to revolution and armed revolution. (Cries of "No, no" from the Congress Benches and also cries of "Unless you use the arms".) When Mr. Narendra Narayan Chakrabarty was speaking, the Hon'ble Mr. Speaker asked this side of the House to remain quiet. May I ask you, Sir, to let me have a patient hearing?

Let me now turn to the scathing attacks of Mr. Narendra Narayan Chakrabarty. I believe that India should attain the status of a free country, I believe in the attainment of India's freedom, but I also believe that it should be by constitutional method, I believe in playing the game according to the rules but I do not believe in cheating. If I

did not believe in attaining freedom by constitutional methods but believed in the shedding of blood through armed revolution, then the first thing for me to do would be to resign my seat here and join the bands of terrorists and revolutionaries. (Cries and interruptions.) Evidently my utterance is going very deep in their mind, and that is why I am challenged expressly. I say, I believe that it is inconsistent with the principle of constitutional Government to try and preach revolutionary doctrine, to preach everything which is going to lead to insurrection and revolution. And there is no doubt whatsoever that this is what they aim at. I maintain, Sir, that so far as these communist organisations are concerned, they are not out for the redress of genuine grievances, either of agriculturists or of the labour. Their main object is exploitation of these people; they do not want redress. Time and again I can prove that reasonable concessions and reasonable adjustments have been refused, and impossible demands have been put up, so that there would be dissatisfaction, quarrel, riot and all kinds of things which are going ultimately to lead to revolution.

There is another thing I would like to tell Mr. Narendra Narayan Chakrabarty, and that is that I and 90—or I should say, 99 per cent.—of the Muslims and the Scheduled Castes do not believe in the professed nationalism of Mr. Narendra Narayan Chakrabarty. (Cries of "Hear, hear".) We are convinced by bitter experience of many years that it is not their desire to gain the freedom of India for Indians as a whole, but that the main object of my friends is to substitute for the British rule the rule of caste Hindus in India (Cries of "Hear, hear"), and that is why they find that we cannot see eye to eye with them. No amount of talking and no amount of honeyed or persuasive words can induce us to change our opinion. We believe in action and not in words, we have heard words for years and years. Let me tell my friends that, as far as the Muslims and Scheduled Castes are concerned, they do not believe in words.

With these words, Sir, I conclude my speech and I oppose all the cut motions.

The motion of Babu Narendra Narayan Chakrabarty that the demand of Rs. 2,14,55,000 for expenditure under the head "29—Police" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Babu Radhanath Das that the demand of Rs. 2,14,55,000 for expenditure under the head "29—Police" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Jogendra Nath Mandal that the demand of Rs. 2,14,55,000 for expenditure under the head "29—Police" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Monoranjan Bannerjee that the demand of Rs. 2,14,55,000 for expenditure under the head "29—Police" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Atul Krishna Ghose that the demand of Rs. 2,14,55,000 for expenditure under the head "29—Police" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. P. Banerji that the demand of Rs. 2,14,55,000 for expenditure under the head "29—Police" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Nishitha Nath Kundu that the demand of Rs. 2,14,55,000 for expenditure under the head "29—Police" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The original motion of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin that a sum of Rs. 2,14,55,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "29—Police" was put and a division taken with the following result:—

Ayes—135.

Abdul Aziz, Maulana Md.
Abdul Bari, Maulvi.
Abdul Hafiz, Mr. Mirza.
Abdul Hafiz, Mr. Mia.
Abdul Hakeem, Mr.
Abdul Hakim, Maulvi.
Abdul Hakim Vikrampuri, Maulvi Md.
Abdul Hamid, Mr. A. M.
Abdul Jabbar, Maulvi.
Abdul Karim, Mr.
Abdul Latif Biswas, Maulvi.
Abdul Majid, Mr. Syed.
Abdul Wahab Khan, Mr.
Abdur Rahman, Khan Bahadur A. F. M.
Abdur Raschid Mahmood, Mr.
Abdur Rasheed, Maulvi Md.
Abdur Rauf, Khan Sahib Maulvi S.
Abdur Rauf, Mr. Shah.
Abdur Razzak, Maulvi.
Abdus Shaheed, Maulvi Md.
Abider Reza Chowdhury, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Abul Hashim, Maulvi.
Abul Hosain Ahmed, Mr.
Abul Quasem, Maulvi.
Aftab Ali, Mr.
Aftab Hosain Jeardar, Maulvi.
Ahmed Ali Enayetpuri, Khan Bahadur Maulana.
Ahmed Ali Mridha, Maulvi.
Ahmed Hossain, Mr.
Alfazuddin Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Aminullah, Khan Sahib Maulvi.
Ashrafuli, Mr. M.
Asdul Hossain Khan, Maulvi.
Azhar Ali, Maulvi.
Bannerman, Mr. H. C.
Barat Ali, Mr. Md.
Bell-Hart, Miss P. B.
Blomfield, Mr. L. M.
Brasher, Mr. F. C.
Campbell, Sir George.
Chippendale, Mr. J. W.
Clark, Mr. I. A.
Crosfield, Mr. L. M.
Das, Mr. Amulut Chandra.
Das, Rai Sahib Kirti Bhusan
Dass, Babu Debendra Nath.
Edbar, Mr. Upendranath.
Farhad Raza Chowdhury, Mr. M.
Farhat Bano Khanam, Begum.
Fazlul Huq, the Hon'ble Mr. A. K.
Fazlul Quadir, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Fazlur Rahman, Mr.
Fazlur Rahman, (Mymensingh) Mr.
Golam Sarwar Hosaini, Mr. Shah Syed.
Gomes Mr. S. A.
Gupta, Mr. J. N.
Gurung Mr. Damber Singh.
Gyasuddin Ahmed Choudhury, Alhadj.
Habibullah, the Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur K., of Dacca.
Hafizuddin Chowdhury, Maulvi.
Hamiduddin Ahmad, Khan Sahib.
Hamilton, Mr. K. A.
Hasanuzzaman, Maulvi Md.
Hashem Ali Khan, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Hasina Murshed, Mrs., M. B. E.
Hatemaliy Jamadar, Khan Sahib Maulvi.
Hawkings, Mr. R. J.
Hendry, Mr. David.
Hirtzel, Mr. H. A. F.
Homan, Mr. F. T.
Idris Ahmed Mia, Maulvi.
Ispahani, Mr. M. A. H.
Jainiuddin Ahmad, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Jasimuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Kabiruddin Khan, Khan Bahadur, Maulvi.
Kazem Ali Mirza, Sahibzada Kawan Jah Syed.
Kennedy, Mr. I. G.
McGregor, Mr. G. G.
Mafizuddin Ahmed, Dr.
Mafizuddin Ahmed, Maulvi.
Mafizuddin Choudhury, Maulvi.
Maguire, Mr. L. T.
Mahtab, Maharajkumar Uday Chand.
Mahtabuddin Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Mandal, Mr. Banku Behari.
Mandal, Mr. Birat Chandra.
Mandal, Mr. Jagat Chandra.
Miller, Mr. C.
Mohammed Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Morgan, Mr. G., C.I.E.
Mostem Ali Molla, Maulvi.

Mohammed Nuq, Maulvi Md.
Muhammad Afzal, Khan Sahib Maulvi Syed
Muhammad Ibrahim, Maulvi.
Muhammad Ishaque, Maulvi.
Muhammad Israil, Maulvi.
Muhammad Siddiqui, Khan Bahadur Dr. Syed.
Muhammad Sulaiman, Khan Sahib Maulvi.
Mullick, the Hon'ble Mr. Mukunda Behary.
Mullick, Mr. Pulin Behary.
Musharruff Hossain, the Hon'ble Nawab Khan Bahadur.
Mustagawsai Haque, Mr. Syed.
Mustafa Ali Dewan, Maulvi.
Nandy, the Hon'ble Maharaja Srischandra, of Cossimbazar.
Nazimuddin, the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir, K.C.I.E.
Noorruddin, Mr. K.
Norton, Mr. H. R.
Rahman, Khan Bahadur A. M. L.
Raikut, the Hon'ble Mr. Prasanna Deb.
Rajibuddin Tarafdar, Maulvi.
Ray Chaudhury, Mr. Birendra Kishore.
Razaur Rahman Khan, Mr.
Roy, the Hon'ble Sir Bijoy Prasad Singh.
Roy, Rai Bahadur Kshirod Chandra.
Roy, Mr. Putiram.
Sadaruddin Ahmed, Mr.
Safiruddin Ahmed, Haji.
Sarkar, Babu Madhusudan.
Sarkar, the Hon'ble Mr. Nalini Ranjan.
Serajul Islam, Mr.
Shahabuddin, Mr. Khawaja, C. B. E.
Shamsuddin Ahmed Khondkar, Mr.
Sirdar, Babu Litta Manda.
Smith, Mr. M. Brabant.
Steven, Mr. J. W. R.
Suhrawardy, the Hon'ble Mr. H. S.
Tamizuddin Khan, The Hon'ble Mr.
Tofel Ahmed Choudhury, Maulvi Haji.
Walker, Mr. W. A. M.
Warren, Mr. P. F. S.
Whitehead, Mr. R. B.
Wordsworth, Mr. W. C.
Yousuf Mirza.
Yusuf Ali Choudhury, Mr.
Zahur Ahmed Choudhury, Maulvi.

Noes—75.

Abdul Wahed, Maulvi.
Abu Hossain Sarkar, Maulvi.
Abul Fazl, Mr. Md.
Ahmed Khan, Mr. Syed.
Asimuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Banerji, Mr. P.
Banerjee, Mr. Pramatha Nath.
Banerji, Mr. Sa ya Priya.
Banerjee, Mr. Sibnath.
Banerjee, Dr. Suresh Chandra.
Bannerjee, Mr. Manoranjan.
Barma, Babu Premhari.
Barma, Mr. Puspajit.
Basu, Mr. Santosh Kumar.
Bhawmik, Dr. Gobinda Chandra.
Biswas, Mr. Rasik Lal.
Biswas, Mr. Surendra Nath.
Chakrabarty, Mr. Jatindra Nath.
Chakrabarty, Babu Narendra Narayan.
Chattopadhyay, Mr. Haripada.
Chaudhuri, Rai Narendra Nath.
Das, Babu Mahim Chandra.
Das, Babu Radhanath.
Das, Mr. Manmohan.
Das, Gupta, Babu Khagendra Nath.
Das Gupta, Srijut Narendra Nath.
Datta, Mr. Dhirendra Nath.
Deloi, Mr. Narendra.
Dutta, Mr. Sukumar.
Dutta Gupta, Miss Mira.
Emdadul Haque, Kazi.
Ghose, Mr. Atul Krishna.
Giasuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Gupta, Mr. Jogesh Chandra.
Hasan Ali Chowdhury, Mr. Syed.
Jalan, Mr. I. D.
Jonab Ali Majumdar, Maulvi.
Khan, Mr. Debendra Lall.
Kumar, Mr. Atul Chandra.
Kundu, Mr. Nishitha Nath.
Maiti, Mr. Nikunja Behari.
Maitra, Mr. Surendra Mohan.
Maji, Mr. Advaita Kumar.
Majumdar, Mrs. Hemaprova.
Mazumdar, Mr. Birendra Nath.
Mal, Mr. Iswar Chandra.
Mandal, Mr. Amrita Lal.
Mandal, Mr. Jogendra Nath.
Mandal, Mr. Krishna Prasad.
Maniruzzaman Islamabadi, Maulana Md.
Maqbul Hosain, Mr.
Mukerji, Mr. Dhirendra Narayan.
Mukherjee, Mr. B.
Mukherji, Dr. H. C.
Mukherji, Dr. Sharat Chandra.
Mullick, Srijut Ashutosh.
Nasker, Mr. Hem Chandra.
Pain, Mr. Barada Prosanna.
Pramanik, Mr. Tarinicharan.
Ramiruddin Ahmed, Mr.
Roy, Mr. Charu Chandra.
Roy, Mr. Dhananjoy.
Roy, Mr. Kamalkrishna.
Roy, Mr. Kiran Sankar.
Roy, Mr. Kishori Pati.
Roy, Mr. Manmatha Nath.
Sanyal, Dr. Nalinaksha.
Sanyal, Mr. Sasanka Sekhar.
Sen, Babu Nagendra Nath.
Shamsuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Sinha, Srijut Mahendra Bhusan.
Sur, Mr. Narendra Kumar.
Thakur, Mr. Pramatha Ranjan.
Walior Rahaman, Maulvi.
Zaman, Mr. A. M. A.

The Ayes being 135 and the Noes 75, the motion was carried.

27—Administration of Justice.

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 74,09,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "27—Administration of Justice."

Sir, after the heat I believe some cold water will be showered and I do not think that my budget has got a single item which can be considered as excessive. On the contrary, my friends on the opposite by all implications have tried to impute that I am not spending sufficiently for the jurors. I can tell my friends in confidence here in this House, that for this, to some extent, I am responsible. There are two circulars. One is more liberal and the other is a little bit stringent. If the first circular is followed, Rs. 80,000 more will have to be spent annually for these jurors, and for the last two years I have not been spending this money. That has saved Bengal an amount of Rs. 1,60,000 through a businessman's work. I do not think I should go into all these matters. I would simply formally commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 74,09,000 under the head "27—Administration of Justice" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the policy of the Government—

(*a*) in not effecting retrenchments specially in view of the fact that the yield from sale of judicial stamps is 20 lakhs worse than it has ever been in the past 17 years,

(*b*) in not taking any steps to remove corruption from the offices,

(*c*) in not giving any effect to the recommendation of the All-Bengal Lawyers' Association in the matter of civil rules and orders, and

(*d*) in the matter of the recruitment of the judicial officers and of the appointment of the Government Pleaders and Public Prosecutors.

Firstly, I shall deal with retrenchment. The expenditure on this head can be divided into four heads, namely, the High Court, the Civil Courts, the Sessions Courts and the Law Officers. As regards the High Court, the expenditure on High Court is Rs. 16,12,500. The whole amount is charged and we cannot reduce a single pice. This is Provincial Autonomy! But I will make certain suggestions in the hope that Government will take steps in that direction. The High Court Retrenchment Committee was set up in the year 1923. They made certain recommendations. These recommendations have not been

given effect to. It suggested the reduction of occasional holidays numbering 22 and I am told that instead of reduction it has considerably gone up. It suggested the curtailment of long vacation. On account of the fact that the period of transit between England and India is much less now than what it was before, the reduction of long vacation can be easily given effect to. In England the long vacation has already been reduced. It also suggested that there is absolutely no reason why the High Court should not sit on Saturdays. If these recommendations are given effect to, there can be a reduction in the number of High Court Judges.

Now I want to say a few words about the Paper Book. Rules regarding the Paper Book are unreasonable and oppressive. I cannot deal with the rules in detail in the short time at my disposal, but I would refer the Hon'ble Minister to the speech that was delivered by Mr. Narendra Kumar Basu, a member of the previous Council, during the budget session of 1936-37. I hope the paper book rules will be modified.

Then, Sir, I come to the civil and the sessions courts. The expenditure on this head is on the increase. In the year 1916-17 it was Rs. 48,36,172; in the year 1917-18 it was Rs. 49,20,046; in the year 1918-19 it was Rs. 51,26,156; in the year 1919-20 it was Rs. 53,06,000; in the year 1920-21 it was Rs. 54,19,000; and this year it has gone up to Rs. 69,57,000; so in about 20 years it has increased by Rs. 20 lakhs. If I consider the expenditure on General Administration (Debt Conciliation), it will increase by Rs. 41 lakhs. If this amount could have been spent for the nation-building departments, the picture of Bengal would have been changed. But, Sir, I am afraid, I am indulging in irresponsible talks according to "Wordsworth and Company."

I have carefully gone through a pamphlet called "A Review of the economy measures of the Government of Bengal." I feel, I sincerely feel, that there is ample room for retrenchment. The maximum pay of a judicial officer should not be more than Rs. 500 in a poor country like India. In this matter I hope the members of the Coalition Group will agree with me. There is ample room for reduction of cadre. We have now got 245 Munsifs, 48 Sub-Judges and 34 District and Sessions Judges. Partly for the establishment of Debt Conciliation Boards, partly for the economic condition of the country and partly for the cadastral survey records prepared in all the districts, the number of civil suits is decreasing and will decrease. So there is absolutely no reason why the cadre of the Munsifs and other judicial officers should not be reduced. I think you will agree with me that, as a matter of fact, nowadays the Munsifs are the most lightly worked officers. May I therefore expect a serious retrenchment from the members of the Cabinet who enjoy fat salaries and fat allowances? But the Hon'ble Mr. Fazlul Huq will tell us seriously that the election pledge with

regard to salaries cannot be redeemed. And if I refer to the Congress provinces the judgment of the Hon'ble Mr. Nalini Ranjan Sarker will run riot in a fit of temporary passion because the reference to the Congress is just like a red rag to the bull.

The next thing I come to is the failure of the Government to take steps to remove corruption. In this matter the Government have been criminally negligent. No attempt has been made to remove corruption. A good many committees have been formed but the only committee, namely, the anti-corruption committee, which is absolutely necessary has not been formed. It is admitted that corruption in the Government offices especially in the Civil and Criminal Courts has eaten up the vitality of the people, but no attempt has been made to remove corruption.

I am reminded by a friend of mine of a rural Bengali proverb " যে সরিষা দিয়ে ভূত তাড়াবে সেই সরিষাতেই ভূত" that is, the mustard seed by which we want to drive away the devil itself contains the devil. A new form of corruption has entered into the judiciary. I find now that on account of the wild utterances of the Hon'ble Mr. Fazlul Huq the whole country is being poisoned with communalism and I give a timely warning that if Government do not take serious and immediate steps in order to avert communalism, the whole judiciary will be corrupt and the whole administration will be brought into disrepute.

Before I go into the other points I wish to say that the time has now come for the judiciary to be separated from the executive. It is a long deferred question which should engage the attention of the Government. The United Provinces Government have decided to separate the judiciary from the executive and have provided Rs. 25,000 in this year's budget. This has become more important of late because the executive have been associated with party politics and if the executive also perform the judicial function their decision is likely to be influenced by consideration of party politics. I find a growing tendency in that direction and I think Government should take early steps to separate the executive from the judiciary.

Next I go to the Civil Rules and Orders We have been crying in this direction for some time past. These rules have got no binding force and they are published for the purpose of increasing the revenue. The Civil Courts officers are required to act as Revenue Officers. If there is delay in filing a petition and the written statement even for 15 minutes, the delay is to be explained by another petition supported by an affidavit. There is absolutely no reason in it. By rule 1034 clerks of the lawyers are excluded from entering court offices though in their cards it is written that they shall have access to the offices. The word "access" has been interpreted as "approach to." Nothing can be more ridiculous. The very object of the rule, namely, removal of corruption, has been frustrated. Mr. Lodge was appointed to enquire

into the working of these rules. He submitted a report but his recommendations have not been given effect to. These rules require immediate modification.

I shall now deal with the recruitment of Judicial Officers and the appointment of Government Pleaders and Public Prosecutors. The system of recruitment is very bad. An young I. C. S. officer works as a Subdivisional Officer for a few years with executive *zulum* and immediately afterwards he is transferred as an Additional District Judge to hear appeals from an experienced Subordinate Judge and to deal with intricacies of civil law. An young I. C. S. officer once enquired of me what is meant by rent. He is not to blame; the system is to blame. Look to the other side—a Subordinate Judge who deals with civil law all through his life, towards the end of his career sits as a Sessions Judge to deal with the lives and liberties of the people.

(Hear the member having reached his time-limit, resumed his seat.)

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: I will not raise the question whether we can at all get justice in law courts as long as the present system of society based on injustice, oppression and exploitation of man by man continues. I am strongly of opinion that unless society itself is based on justice, it is idle to expect justice in the courts which at the present moment, just as the Police Department, Jails, this Assembly House, and all the other paraphernalia of State, are part of the machinery devised by the ruling nation or class to suppress any revolt or maintain the *status quo*. I do not want to go into the fundamental principles because there is no time for it. I shall speak to-night of very small things—rupees, annas and pies. Thanks to the conspiracy of the Labour Minister, I have been very often finding myself in law courts nowadays and have been forced to observe what is going on in the courts there. As a result of my observation and from my personal experience I would make certain remarks.

We have heard a lot about stopping bribery and corruption in the Police Department in the speech of Sir Nazimuddin, but what about the *peshkar's* taking bribes sitting within two yards in front of the Magistrate or the Judge. They are taking bribes; everybody knows it and it is the experience of almost every one of us that it is happening every day and that before the very eyes of the Magistrate, but no attempt is being made to stop it. Not only the *peshkar* but everyone in the court (I won't go to the top; perhaps I should not do so) right from the *chaprashi* up to the high officials of court all are taking bribes. Whenever there is hearing of a case the *peshkar* has to be paid for *hazri* just as the lawyer and his *muhuri* have to pay the *peshkar* as well as other officials of the Court. When one party wins—and always one party wins—the court officers and *chaprasis* have to be paid.

Whenever a man gets the order of bail, he has to pay to clerks, i.e., to the man who writes the order, to the man who takes the order from the court to the lock-up and to the man who opens the lock-up to release him. All these men from beginning to the end have to be paid,—for each and every item in the process one has to pay bribes.

Then there is another system and it is this: Men who can stand sureties are kept limited in number. Therefore they can make a good business out of it and not only that but part of this ill-gotten money goes to the pocket of the officers themselves as they are there. Otherwise they would not be accepted as sureties. I do not want to multiply the instances. I only want to raise to-day this question: "Are we going to submit to this sort of practice for ever or are we going to devise means to stop this practice?" This is what I want to say to-night.

Then there is the Small Causes Court. The earlier it is abolished, the better it is for all concerned. It is a disgrace to the name of justice.

Similarly there are police courts and the way in which the witnesses are coached is certainly objectionable. It is sickening to find how Public Prosecutors for the sake of getting conviction, are led by the nose by the Police. I do not want to multiply it, my question is this: "Will this Government try to check this? Will they set up an enquiry committee to go thoroughly into the matter and stop this disgraceful and outrageous state of affairs in the law courts?" That is all that I have to submit.

Maulvi MD. MOZAMMEL HUQ:

মাননীয় সভামুখ্য মহোদয়, Administration of Justice যাহাকে বাংলার বিচার বিভাগ বলে এবং বিভাগের জন্য নবাব সাহেব আজ দাবি উত্থাপন করিয়াছেন, সে দাবি আমরা তো বরাবরই পাশ করিয়া থাকি। কিন্তু, এই বিচার বিভাগে মুসলমানদের প্রতি বিচারের নামে যে কিরূপ অবিচার হইতেছে, সে সম্বন্ধে দুই একটা কথা আমি আজ বলিতে চাই। এই বিচার বিভাগের চোর ডাকাতের বিচারের কথা আমি আজ বলিব না, খাজনা এবং ঋণ লেনদেনের বিচারের কথাও আজ বলিবো না, খুন রাহাজানির বিচারের কথাও আজ কিছু বলিবো না রাজনৈতিক murder বা terrorism এর বিচারের বিষয়ও আজ কিছু বলিব না, Abduction বা স্ত্রীলোকঘটিত মোকদ্দমা বিশেষ করিয়া তাহাতে সাম্প্রদায়িক গন্ধ থাকিলে তাহার বিচার কিরূপ হয় সে সম্বন্ধেও আজ কোন কথা বলিবো না, কলিকাতার Honorary Magistrates গণ ফেরিওয়ালা প্রভৃতি গরীব লোকদের Petty case এর কিরূপ বিচার করেন, সে বিচারের কথা—যা নাকি খবরের কাগজে শুনিয়াছি যে কোন একজন অনরারী Presidency Magistrate একদিনে প্রায় দুই হাজার মামলার বিচার নিষ্পত্তি কোরেছিলেন, তার কথাও কিছু বলিব না। এক কথায় বিচারকদের সম্বন্ধে আজ কিছুই বলিতে চাই না। কিন্তু, বিচার পরিচালনার যে একটা বিভাগ আছে তার সম্বন্ধেই আজ দুই একটা কথা বলিব। এখন কথা হইতেছে এই যে মুসলমানই হইতেছে বাংলার বৃহত্তম সমাজ। একথা কংগ্রেসী বন্ধুরাও অবশ্য স্বীকার করিবেন। বাংলাদেশে হিন্দু, মুসলমান, জৈন, খৃষ্টান প্রভৃতি বহু জাতির বাসা তাহারা সকলেই চায় গভর্ণমেন্টের প্রত্যেক বিভাগে তাহাদের প্রত্যেক জাতির লোক থাকে। জজ, ম্যাজিষ্ট্রেটও তাদের থাকে, ইহাও প্রত্যেক জাতিই চায়। আমরা মুসলমানেরা বাংলাদেশের বৃহত্তম সমাজ বলিয়া আমাদের সংখ্যানুপাতে আমাদের দাবির পরিমাণমত লোক সর্ব্বত্রই সকল বিভাগে এবং বিচার বিভাগেও আমরা চাই। অথচ এই বিভাগে মুসলমানদের অস্তিত্ব

একরূপ নাই বলিলেই চলে। খুব শক্তিশালী টেলিস্কোপ বা মাইক্রোস্কোপ ব্যতীত এই বিভাগে মুসলমানদের অস্তিত্ব বড় একটা নির্ণয় করা যাইবে না। এটা কবির কল্পনা নয়। বাস্তব জিনিষ দ্বারাই আমি এটা প্রমাণ করিব। আমি এসম্বন্ধে কয়েকটা ফিল্ম দেখাতে চাই। আশা করি সভাধ্যক্ষ মহোদয় ঘন্টা বাজাইয়া আমার ফিল্ম দেখাইবার রস ভঙ্গ করিবেন না। (laughter) এবিষয়ে ১৯০৮ সনের ১৭ই মার্চ্চ তারিখে খান বাহাদুর মওলানা আহমদ আলী এনায়েতপুরী সাহেবের প্রশ্নের উত্তরে নবাব সাহেব বলিয়াছিলেন যে হাইকোর্টের উচ্চপদের ১৯টী চাকুরীর মধ্যে মাত্র দুইটী চাকুরী মুসলমানগণ পাইয়াছে, আর বাকী ১৭টী পাইয়াছে হিন্দুরা। উক্ত চাকুরীর টাকার হিসাব হইতে আমি দেখাইতেছি যে উক্ত ১৯টী চাকুরীর ভিতর ১৭টী চাকুরীতে মাসিক ১০,২০০৲ টাকা ভোগ করেন বর্ণহিন্দুগণ আর মাত্র ২টী চাকুরীতে ৯০০৲ টাকা পাইতেছেন মুসলমানগণ। আর হাইকোর্টের নিম্ন চাকুরীতে সংখ্যা হিসাবে ৫৯৭টী চাকুরী ভোগ করেন হিন্দুগণ এবং মাত্র ১৪৭টী চাকুরীতে মুসলমানগণ নিযুক্ত আছেন। তার মধ্যেও আর্দ্দলি দপ্তরী প্রভৃতির সংখ্যাই বেশী। এই বিষয়ে যে বিশেষ ধাপ্পাবাজী রহিয়াছে, তাহা আপনারা বুঝিতেই পারিতেছেন। আর এটা আমার নিজের কথাও নয়, গভর্ণমেন্টের কাগজপত্র হইতেই আমি এই হিসাব দেখাইতেছি। ইহা হইতেই হাইকোর্টের চাকুরীতে আমাদের দুরবস্থার কথা আপনারা অনুমান করিতে পারিবেন। (From Congress side: cut motion move কোরবেন তো?) move করি না করি, সে পরে দেখা যাইবে। এখন আমার কথাগুলি শুনুন। এসম্বন্ধে ইণ্ডিয়ান সিভিলিয়ানগণের শীর্ষস্থানীয় Mr. William Hunter সাহেবের "Indian Mussalman" নামে একখানা বই আছে। ১৮৭৬ খৃষ্টাব্দে তিনি যখন উক্ত বইখানা লিখেন, তখন বলিয়াছেন—

"A hundred and seventy years ago, it was almost impossible for a well-born Mussalman in Bengal to become poor. At present it is almost impossible for him to continue rich."

তারপর তিনি অন্যত্র বলিয়াছেন—

"I premise that my remarks apply only to lower Bengal, the province with which I am best acquainted and in which, so far as I can learn, the Mahomedans have suffered most severely under British rule."

তিনি অন্যস্থানে লিখিয়াছেন—"We have failed in our duty to the Mahomedan subjects of the Queen. A great section of the Indian population, some 30 millions in number, finds itself decaying under British rule. They complain that they who but yesterday were the conquerors and the Governors of the land, can find no subsistence in it to-day. Before the country passed under our (British) rule the Mussalmans professed the same faith, ate the same food, and in all essentials lived the same lives as they do now. To this day, they exhibit at intervals their old intense feeling of nationality and capability of warlike enterprise but in all other respects, they are a race grined under British rule."

অর্থাৎ কিছুদিন পূর্ব্বেও যে মুসলমানগণ এদেশের Conqueror বা বিজেতা এবং Governor বা শাসনকর্ত্তা ছিলেন, তারা এখন নিজেদের পেটের অন্ন জোটাইতে পারে না বৃটিশ শাসনের কল্যাণে তাহাদের অবস্থা এত শোচনীয় হইয়া পড়িয়াছে। Hunter সাহেব তাঁহার "Indian Mussalman" গ্রন্থে লিখিয়াছেন, "পূর্ব্বে Supreme Court বা দেশের উচ্চতম বিচারালয়ে সদরআলা হইতে আরম্ভ করিয়া দপ্তরীপদ পর্য্যন্ত সকল পদই মুসলমানগণ অলঙ্কৃত করিতেন, কিন্তু দুঃখের বিষয় উক্ত উচ্চতম বিচারালয়ে ১৮৭৬ খৃষ্টাব্দে মাত্র ২টী মুসলমান দেখা

যায়—একটী mender of pen বা কলম তরাস এবং দ্বিতীয়টী supplier of ink pot বা দোয়াত সরবরাহকারী।" (A member from the Praja Party : অতএব British Rule ধ্বংস করুন।) আমার বন্ধুদের দয়ায়ও হইয়াছে আমাদের এই অবস্থা। কিন্তু অন্যের দুর্ভাগ্যের বিষয় এই যে এই বিংশ শতাব্দীর আলোকের দিনেও আমাদের সেই একই অবস্থা অর্থাৎ ১৮৭৬ খৃষ্টাব্দের অবস্থার কিছুই পরিবর্তন হয় নাই। আমার কোন কোন কংগ্রেসী বন্ধু এবং হিন্দু মহাসভার বন্ধুরা হয় তো বলিবেন যে মুসলমানরা উপযুক্ত নহে। আমি উচ্চৈঃস্বরে বলি যে এটা ভুয়া কথা, তাহা নিছক মিথ্যা কথা। মুসলমান সমাজের মধ্যে বর্তমানে Matric I. A., I, Sc., B. A., B. Sc., M. A., M. Sc., তে 1st Class এবং distinction প্রাপ্ত ব্যক্তির অভাব নাই। তারা চাকুরী দাও—চাকুরী দাও করিয়া সর্বত্র ঘুরিতেছে এবং আমাদের বাড়ী বাড়ী যাইয়া আমাদের জীবন অতিষ্ঠ করিয়া তুলিতেছে। (Laughter) হাসিলে চলিবে না। আপনারা হিন্দুগণ সবাই আগে চাকুরী ছাড়িয়া দিয়া পরে হা হা করিয়া হাসিবেন। হাসিতে লজ্জা করে না আপনাদের? লজ্জা হওয়া দরকার! মুসলমানদের এখন আর সে আগের অবস্থা নাই। এখন তাদের মধ্যে B. A., M. A., 1st Class শত শত রহিয়াছে। সেদিন প্রেসিডেন্সী কলেজে মাসিক ৩৫৲ বেতনে একটী মুসলমান কেরাণীর জন্য সংবাদপত্রে কর্মখালির বিজ্ঞাপন দেওয়া হয়। তাহাতে মুসলমান প্রার্থীদের নিকট হইতে ৩৮০ খানা দরখাস্ত পাওয়া যায়। তন্মধ্যে ৩৮০ জন গ্রাজুয়েট দরখাস্তকারী এবং মাত্র ৩ জন আণ্ডার গ্রাজুয়েট দরখাস্তকারী ছিল। ইহা হইতে বর্তমানে মুসলমান শিক্ষিতের সংখ্যা বুঝিতে পারিবেন। এতদিন ধাপ্পাবাজী করিয়া আমাদের ঠকান হইয়াছে—এখন আর উহা চলিবে না। এখন আমরা হিন্দুদের চেয়েও যোগ্য হইয়াছি। (Hear , hear) এখন আমাদের মধ্যে শিক্ষিতের অভাব নাই। এখন মুসলমানগণ সর্ববিষয়ে হিন্দুদিগকে পিছনে ফেলিয়া অগ্রসর হইয়া চলিয়াছে। আজকাল কাজি নজরুল ইসলামের মতন কবিতা কয়জন হিন্দু লিখিতে পারেন? কবিসম্রাট রবীন্দ্রনাথ পর্যন্ত তাহাকে একটী genious বলিয়া certificate দিয়াছেন। তারপরে কে, মল্লিকের মতন—আব্বাস উদ্দীনের মতন এত সুমধুর গান কয়জন হিন্দু আজ গাহিতে পারে? ফুটবল খেলায়, ক্রিকেট, হকি ও পলো খেলায় মুসলমান আজ বিশ্ববিজয়ী হইতে চলিয়াছে। আমি বলিতে পারি,—নিশ্চয় করিয়া বলিতে পারি—যে, মুসলমান আজ জাগিয়া উঠিয়াছে। তাহাদিগকে এতকাল নির্যাতিত ও নিপীড়িত করিয়া রাখা হইয়াছিল, তাহারা আজ তাহার প্রতিশোধ লইবে এবং তাহাদের প্রাপ্য সুদে আসলে আদায় করিয়া লইবে। (স্পীকার মহোদয়, আমাকে আর তিন মিনিট সময় দিন।) আমাদের সঙ্গে Schedule Castes দেরও সেই অবস্থা। তাহাদিগকেও চিরদিন নিষ্পেষিত করিয়া রাখা হইয়াছে। তাহাদের মধ্যেও বহু শিক্ষিত লোক আছেন। আজ তাহারাও তাহাদের অধিকার বুঝিয়া পাইতে চায়।

তারপর আমাদের Finance Minister বা অর্থসচিব তাঁর বাজেটে বলিয়াছেন যে গভর্ণমেন্টের মোট আয়ের মধ্যে ২ কোটি ৭ লক্ষ টাকা কোর্ট ফি হইতে আদায় হয়। একথা সত্য যে মুসলমানেরাই মামলাবাজ বেশী। এটা মুসলমানদের দুর্ভাগ্য। মুসলমানগণ বেশী টাকা মামলায় খরচ করে। আর সেটাকা যায় হিন্দুর ঘরে। এই কোর্ট-ফি হইতে আয় দুই কোটি সাত লক্ষ টাকার major portion বা বেশীর ভাগ মুসলমানের নিকট হইতেই আসিতেছে। সুতরাং বিচার বিভাগের আয়ের বেশীর ভাগ মুসলমান যোগায়। আর সেই টাকার বেশীর ভাগ আপনারা হিন্দুরা লইয়া এবং সে টাকা দিয়া খাইয়া পেট মোটা করিবেন—ভুঁড়ি মোটা করিবেন—ভুঁড়ি ঘুরাইয়া চলিবেন, এবং ছেলেপিলে নিয়ে নাচবেন আর মুসলমানের ছেলেরা হা-অন্ন, হা-অন্ন করিয়া মরিবে, এ অবস্থা ও ব্যবস্থা কি সহ্য করা যায়? এ অবস্থা কখনো থাকিতে পারে না। মুসলমানেরা পূর্ণমাত্রায় তাহাদের দাবি আজ আদায় করিয়া লইবে। Schedule Castes রাও পূর্ণমাত্রায় তাহাদের দাবি আদায় করিবে। বিচার বিভাগে শুধু এই অবিচারই নয়—গভর্ণমেন্টের অন্যান্য বিভাগেও এই বিচার বিভাগের অবিচারের কুফল ফলিয়াছে। এই দেখুন, Finance

Minister এর অধীন ১৮টা Stenographer এর post এর মধ্যে মাত্র ২টী মুসলমানদের দেওয়া হইয়াছে। তাহাড়া তাঁর অধীনে আরো ৩০টী চাকুরীর মধ্যে মাত্র ৪টী চাকুরী মুসলমানগণ পাইয়াছে।

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order. Finance Department is not the subject under discussion.

Maulvi MD. MOZAMMEL HUQ:

সভাম্মুখ্য মহোদয়, আমার এই বক্তৃতাতে অন্য বিভাগের বিষয় বোলতে যাচ্ছি না—শুধু আমাদের মুসলমানদের প্রতি যে অন্যায় করা হচ্ছে কেবল সেটাই আমি দেখাইতেছি। Home Minister এর অধীনে প্রেস এবং ফরমস্ বিভাগে ৩৭টী চাকুরীর মধ্যে হিন্দুগণ পাইয়াছে ৩৬টী এবং মুসলমান পাইয়াছে ১টী মাত্র। তাহাও আবার কুলি মজুরের কাজে। মুসলমান সমাজে কুলি মজুরেরও অভাব? এ দুঃখ রাখিব কোথা? চাকুরী বিষয়ে মুসলমানের প্রতি অত্যাচার অবিচার ও অনাচারের—

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Huq, you must follow the ordinary rules of procedure.

Maulvi MD. MOZAMMEL HUQ:

Sir, অনেক গোপন খবর আমার নিকট আছে যাহা বাহির করিয়া দিলে interested party বা স্বার্থবিশিষ্ট দলের ভিতর প্রতিবাদের সাড়া পড়িয়া যায়। Public Health Department বা জনস্বাস্থ্য বিভাগে বন্যাপীড়িতদের রোগচিকিৎসার্থ কয়েকমাসের জন্য ৭২টী Public Health Unit বা জনস্বাস্থ্য চিকিৎসকদল নিযুক্ত করা হয়—তন্মধ্যে ৭২টী সাব-এসিষ্ট্যান্ট সার্জনের মধ্যে মুসলমান মাত্র ৪টী নিযুক্ত করা হয়।

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid, you are again referring to the Finance Department. You cannot refer here to any department other than the Judicial.

Maulvi MD. MOZAMMEL HUQ:

সভাপতি মহাশয়, বিচার বিভাগের অবিচারের ফলে সর্ব বিভাগই মুসলমানগণের প্রতি অবিচার হইতেছে, ইহার আশু প্রতিকার দরকার।

(At this stage, the member having reached the time-limit, resumed his seat.)

Mr. PULIN BEHARY MULLICK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, much has been said against the construction of new buildings at the time of the general discussion of the budget. The necessity for these buildings has not been seriously challenged. The only point that has been raised is that these proposals are ill-timed, as the financial prospects of this year are rather gloomy. Under such circumstances, Sir, one naturally feels a considerable amount of hesitation in putting forward a new proposal for a new building. But, Sir, if I can show the urgency of such a building and at the same time if I can succeed in proving that the proposed building will bear its own cost of construction, I hope

there will not be any reasonable objection to such a proposal. Sir, I am referring to the construction of a new building for the Presidency Magistrates' courts at Calcutta. Up to 1914 the Calcutta Police Court was situated in its own building at Lalbazar, after which three courts were established, one at Jorabagan, another at Bankshall Street, and the third at Kyd Street. The last named court was abolished in 1916, the other two courts remained. In October, 1934, these two courts were accommodated in the present Bankshall Court building which was built nearly two centuries ago for residential purpose. It is absolutely ill-fitted for the purpose for which it is now being used. All available space has been taken up by the courts and the offices, and there is hardly any space left for the litigants and their witnesses. Sir, the magnitude of congestion will be apparent from the fact that besides the stipendiary magistrates, the honorary magistrates, the staff, the establishment and the police officers, these courts are daily visited by a large number of lawyers, litigants, their witnesses and friends and advisers who would number in all about 1,000. So, Sir, the people of 3 buildings have now accumulated into a dense congestion in the present Bankshall Court building which has consequently become extremely unhealthy. The four lock-ups in which prisoners are kept are nothing but dungeons, dark and ill-ventilated. The two petty courts to which a reference has been made by a previous speaker are quite insufficient to accommodate a large number of defendants in petty cases who contribute largely to the coffers of the State. I might mention here for the information of the House that an Assistant Sub-Inspector of Police who was in charge of these dark and ill-ventilated lock-ups for a considerable time died of consumption though he possessed a very robust constitution. We shudder at the thought of this Black Hole. But, Sir, not one but seven Black Holes have been put together in the Bankshall Court building,—a vivid description of which has been given by Mr. P. N. Mitter, an advocate practising in these courts in his article "Black Hole Perpetuated" published in the local newspapers in July, 1938.

Sir, I believe, I have sufficiently established the urgency of a new building for the Calcutta Police Court, spacious enough to relieve the present harmful and hateful congestion.

Now, Sir, as regards the question of funds, the annual receipts of these courts would be in the neighbourhood of Rs. 2½ lakhs and the annual expenditure Rs. 1½ lakhs, leaving a balance of nearly a lakh of rupees. So, Sir, the balance of three or four years, pooled together, would be sufficient for the construction of a new building. So I said that the proposed building would bear its own cost of construction.

In conclusion, Sir, I appeal to the Government——(Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: And to the Secretary to the Judicial Department) as my honourable friend has just observed, it is within the personal

knowledge of the Secretary to the Judicial Department, to look into the matter and do the needful. Sir, I appeal to both of them to take up the matter in right earnest without losing any further time.

Sir, I have just attempted to draw the pointed attention of Government to the urgency of the need. So, Sir, I do not move my cut motion——

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur: Sir, my friend Mr. Datta from the Congress side has given me a catalogue of grievances, but it will not be possible for me to look into every point of detail.

My friend has attacked the High Court. He asks: "Why should not the High Court Judges sit on Saturdays? Why should there be so many holidays for the High Court"? To that my own reply is (Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: All copy rights reserved), (Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: It is not Government's reply) that, so far as the High Court Judges are concerned, they work for five days a week, and my friend ought to know that they begin work from 10 in the morning and sit till 5 o'clock. This means about seven hours' work a day, and 7 x 5 means 35 hours a week. That being so, Sir, it cannot be said that they are putting in less work than can be expected of them. Then as regards Saturdays, my friend ought to know that the Judges have to prepare their judgments and do a lot of other work as, for instance, study law which is necessary for disposing of their cases. A middle-class man, coming from the mufassil, is not competent to criticise the High Court Judges with his meagre knowledge. (Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: Hear, hear.)

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: On a point of information, Sir. May I know whether the Hon'ble Minister is making the statement as regards High Court Judges working from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. as a responsible Minister of Government?

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur: My friend probably wants to contradict me by saying that the Judges actually work in their courts from 11 a.m. to 4-30 p.m., but my friend ought to know that the work of the Judges does not commence from the time when they actually take their seats in court. They have a lot of office work to do. Now if they have to do all this office work in their chambers, then do you not think, Sir, that that is also court work? So, when I said that they work from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., I was

perfectly right because I have been enquiring into these matters from time to time, and this is what I heard from the Judges themselves. (Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: Nawab Saheb paid a surprise visit to the High Court!) Though I had no occasion to go to the High Court and see for myself the actual state of affairs, I can tell the House that I have had talks with some High Court Judges who have assured me that this is really so. However, that is neither here nor there. On my part, Sir, I am quite satisfied with the amount of work that the Judges put in and with the quality of their work, and I do not believe that there is any justification for imposing any additional work on them. (Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: They do sufficient work!) (Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Satisfaction is catching!)

Then my friend has also referred to Paper Books. Probably, he has no knowledge about Paper Books. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Hear, hear.) He has also referred me to Mr. Narendra Kumar Basu's speech. Unfortunately, Sir, the speech is not with me, and so I am not in a position to read it and reply to it now. (Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: What is a Paper Book?) (The Hon'ble Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKER: All books are Paper Books.) (Laughter.)

As regards the pay of judicial officers subordinate to the High Court, my friend has suggested that it should be up to Rs. 500 per mensem. If their pay is fixed at Rs. 500 per mensem, I suppose my friend is also thinking of giving them an allowance of another Rs. 1,000 to make up for the loss they are incurring as in the Congress provinces where that is really being done. If you pay them Rs. 500 then the pay of all officers including the Ministers will be Rs. 500, and in that case I want to know how does my friend propose to provide for additional allowances for these officers? They have to work all day and they never go out. (Laughter.) So far as the Ministers are concerned (Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: They go out.) (Laughter.) the Congress Governments have provided for a lot of amenities, and a first class motor car has been bought for each one of them and the Ministers are also getting decent allowances for keeping cars. Then again palaces have been built for them just to accommodate them. I wish I had a palace like that. (Laughter.) (Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: Join the Congress Party.) (Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: You have got a palace at Jalpaiguri.) (Laughter.)

Then as regards Civil Rules and Orders, my friend has said a lot. "Civil Rules and Orders" has got two volumes containing—I do not know how many rules (laughter). He asked me——

Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN: On a point of information, Sir. The Hon'ble Minister is perhaps not aware that the second volume of Civil Rules and Orders does not contain any rule. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Where ignorance is bliss, it is folly to be wise.) (Laughter.)

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur: The rules are there, and my information is that the objectionable portions (laughter) of those rules have been amended already.

My friend has referred to some affidavits, but I am informed by the department that these affidavits have been dispensed with. So when once it has been done, I do not believe that you can reasonably call our Civil Courts as so many extorting Courts which realise from the people as much revenue as they can.

In the catalogue of his complaints, my friend says that pleaders' clerks are not allowed entrance in the offices. I think you want purity in all these offices. Now, Sir, we find that rules have been framed to stop people from entering the offices. When this has been done, I think you should admit that this is a right step taken by the officers to stop corruption.

In 1937, I said, if you remember my speech, that to check this corruption, I appoint you, the members of this House, as agents of mine to detect all these crimes. (Hear, hear and laughter.) Will you please tell me, if as my agents, you have given me any information which I could make use of for suppressing the evil. On the contrary, I am told from time to time that our officers are very hard on the pleaders' clerks and others. They do not allow them admission into the offices. I am sorry that responsible people like you can speak so lightly against public servants. These people are your servants and they are helping you in every possible way. Without them you cannot carry on and specially those pleaders who work in mufassil. If a single case was mentioned to me, I would have taken extreme steps but without any such assistance from you, I can tell you this much that already in the course of these two years, we had to dismiss two clerks from service because we got some evidence against them. So you see that as soon as our officers come to know of any black sheep, they turn them out of office. I may tell you this much —I have been told by my Leader—that our Judges and Munsifs holding offices will have broomsticks and they will clear out all those who will be found guilty of corruption. (Laughter.)

Mr. SPEAKER: I hope there will not be so much noise at the sound of broomsticks! (Laughter.)

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur: Then, Sir, Mr. Sibnath Banerjee too spoke about corruption and my reply holds good about him also.

As regards my friend, Mr. Mozammel Huq, he has also given me a catalogue of grievances. He ought to know that the time has greatly changed and he ought to know also—he does not know—that the Hon'ble

Chief Justice has agreed to set apart 45 per cent. of the appointments in clerkship of the High Court for the Muslims. I can tell you that although you have been thinking that the Hon'ble Chief Justice is not doing anything to redress the grievances of the Muslims, as a matter of fact, I can tell you that without asking he himself suggested that 45 per cent. of the new recruits must come from the Muslim community. Do you not think that this is a sufficient testimony of good work that is being done in the High Court. From almost nothing you are now getting 45 per cent. of the appointments! You have been complaining that there is no officer in the High Court worth the name who looks after the interests of the Muslims. But here you see that the Hon'ble Chief Justice himself is looking after their interests.

As regards Subordinate Judges you ought to know that they are promoted from Munsifs. You also know that sometime ago the Munsifs were recruited from the other communities. Now I would like to tell you that the Cabinet has decided that henceforth 45 per cent. of the Munsifs must be recruited from the Muhammadan community.

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: Why not 60 per cent.?

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur: I cannot tell off-hand what the percentage will be. All that will depend upon the compromise to be effected between different classes. So far as the complaint of some of the members is concerned, this happened two years ago. Unfortunately there have been no recruitments for some years, and for this you cannot blame us. The blame lies on the Bengal Agricultural Debtors Act, which has taken away a lot of work from my department. Some portion of my department's work has been transferred to that of my colleague, Mr. Mullick. That being so, I could not make much appointments during these two years. You further know that the High Court in the course of three years appointed 77 Munsifs as six years' recruitment was made in three years. As soon as new appointments are made, I hope the Muhammadans will get an increased percentage and the grievances of the Muslim community would disappear. (Cries of "now we are satisfied".) I am very glad that my friends are satisfied.

Mr. Mallick wants me to press for the construction of a building, a new building, for the Presidency Magistrate's court.

Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN: Is the Criminal Administration of Justice wthin your jurisdiction?

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur: Yes.

I may assure Mr. Mallick that if the Finance Department and the Council of Ministers agree, he may have a palace there. I have personally no power to grant any money. The Council of Ministers only can do it. I will request them to give me a grant. In this connection I may tell my friend that I sympathise with him in this matter. Unfortunately the courts all over the province are now housed in such old houses that unless these are reconstructed and a real programme is drawn up for the construction of new buildings, the old ones may collapse as a result of an earthquake. I think there should be a programme for the construction of new court buildings and my friend the Hon'ble Maharaja has to look to it. I may tell you that I have full sympathy with all the schemes that have been prepared till now. Unless you spend every year some amount of money for the construction and renewal of the houses, it will not be possible for you in one year to spend about 15 crores of rupees for them. So there must be a programme, and that programme must be worked. If that is done, then my friend Mr. Mallik may have a new house for the Presidency Magistrate's Court which he says is two hundred years old. I ask you to consider if a house which is 200 years old can exist. It should be dismantled and a new house built. None would care to live in such an old house. I may tell you that life of lime and mortars is just 50 years. A house two hundred years old must be dismantled and replaced by a new one. I will refer the case to my friend the Hon'ble the Finance Minister.

The motion of Mr. Dhirendra Nath Datta that the demand of Rs. 74,09,000 be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The original demand of the Hon'ble Nawab Musharruff Hossain, Khan Bahadur, that a sum of Rs. 74,09,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "27—Administration of Justice" was then put and agreed to.

Order of Business for 23rd, 24th and 25th March.

Mr. SPEAKER: I want to make one or two announcements about to-morrow. I think there is a desire on the part of the House owing to the loss of a day to meet earlier. So I propose to meet to-morrow at 4-15 p.m. so that we can sit half an hour earlier. There is one point on which I would like to have the opinion of the House. To-morrow's usual demand is Irrigation and Civil Works. In view of the fact that General Administration and Police matters and Jails are more or less allied, I think we should take up Civil Works and Irrigation first and try to take up other demands later. Otherwise they will be guillotined. Debt Conciliation and other matters will be taken up after Civil Works and Irrigation.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: What about Jails?

Mr. SPEAKER: Probably it will have to be guillotined, if there is no time. The next day we will take up Excise and Debt Conciliation, and on the day following the entire block would be taken.

I think the best plan would be to take up Civil Works and Irrigation to-morrow and Jails, if possible.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: It was decided that, inasmuch as we have lost a day, after disposing of Police and General Administration we should pass on to Debt Conciliation and Jails and Convict Settlements. All this programme is shifted just by a day. After that we begin Civil Works.

Mr. SPEAKER: That means that some of the demands should be cut out. When we are not putting Jails and Convict Settlements at all, it will be guillotined.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: What about "European Education"?

Mr. SPEAKER: It will be the first thing on Saturday for which I shall allot half an hour.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned till 4-15 p.m. on Thursday, the 23rd March, 1939, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Thursday, the 23rd March, 1939, at 4-15 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. AZIZUL HAQUE, C.I.E.) in the Chair, 11 Hon'ble Ministers and 219 members.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Mr. SPEAKER: I may inform honourable members that owing to an urgent meeting some of the Members of the Cabinet will be coming late. So, there is only one question which can be taken up at present and that is *257 which concerns the Hon'ble Maharaja Srischandra Nandy, of Cossimbazar, who is here. After that I shall take up the other questions, and if not to-day, then to-morrow.

Silting up of rivers between Tarpassa and Madaripur.

***257. Alhadj GYASUDDIN AHMED CHOUDHURY:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works (Irrigation) Department aware—

(*i*) that the river between Tarpassa and Madaripur *via* Sureshwar, Nuria and Palong is being silted up;

(*ii*) that the steamer connection in the above line has been suspended; and

(*iii*) that the people of the eastern part of the Madaripur subdivision have got no steamer communications?

(*b*) If the reply to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what action, if any, does he propose to take in the matter?

MINISTER in charge of the COMMUNICATIONS and WORKS DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: (*a*) (*i*) The attention of the hon'ble member is invited to the reply given on the 6th March to part (*a*) of Mr. Surendra Nath Biswas's unstarred question No. 44.

(*ii*) and (*iii*) I understand that steamers do not ply in the Palong Nalla, but that there are navigable channels connecting Palong and Jabsa with the Arial Khan river and Nuria and neighbouring villages with the Padma.

(*b*) Three shoals in the head reach of the river were dredged about three months ago; the behaviour of the river during one or two flood seasons will have to be observed to enable Government to come to a decision as to its conservancy in future.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state with reference to his answer (*b*) whether the dredging of the three shoals in the head reach of the river has enabled the steamers to ply on that channel?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: It improved the position slightly.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: My question has not been answered. I want to know whether the dredging has enabled the steamers to ply on the channel?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: I have already said it improved the condition of the river.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the steamers can ply on that channel on account of the dredging or not?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISHCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: As far as I am aware they cannot ply throughout the year.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be able to enlighten the House as to what he means by the latter part of his answer (*b*) "the behaviour of the river during one or two flood seasons will have to be observed to enable Government to come to a decision as to its conservancy in future".

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: By that it is meant that a river cannot improve simply by dredging. One has to watch and see if the causes which led to the formation of the shoals disappear or not.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the present condition of this river has been continuing for the last five or six years?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: Not only this river but the rivers in general in Bengal are deteriorating.

Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what has been done during the last five or six years with respect to these rivers?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: I want notice.

Conduct of Circle Officer during election of President of Kalocho Union Board, Tippera.

***254. Mr. MAQBUL HOSSAIN:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Appointment) Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that Khan Sahib Maulvi Syeduddin Ahmed, the then Circle Officer of Hajiganj, canvassed at the time of the President election held on the 16th October, 1938, for Maulvi Noabali Mia, a candidate for Presidentship of No. 2 Kalocho Union, police-station Hajiganj, Tippera; and

(*ii*) that the activities of the Circle Officer were brought to the notice of the District Magistrate, Tippera, and of the Commissioner, Chittagong Division, on the 10th and 11th October, 1938, respectively, by Maulvi Jonab Ali Majumdar, M.L.A.?

(*b*) Is it a fact that Maulvi Jonab Ali Majumdar, M.L.A., who is one of the elected members of the present Kalocho Union Board, objected to the then Subdivisional Officer, Chandpur, opposing the appointment of this Circle Officer as Presiding Officer at Rampur Middle English School, at the President election of the Union Board that was held on 16th October, 1938?

(*c*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps, if any, have the Government taken against the said Circle Officer on the complaints made by Maulvi Jonab Ali Majumdar, M.L.A.?

MINISTER in charge of the HOME DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) Allegations of the nature described were made to the District Magistrate but since they were unsupported by any testimony, were not made in the manner prescribed by the Act and Rules, nor were the prescribed court-fees paid, no action was taken.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) None.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any evidence was called for?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: No.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why was evidence not at all called for?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Because there was nothing to support the allegation that was made.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the allegation of a member of this House is not sufficient to institute an inquiry into the matter?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Not unless there was some basis to go upon.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: What is the basis which the Magistrate wanted to know?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Some kind of fact which would be possible of verification.

Mr. SURENDRA MOHAN MAITRA: If no evidence was called for, how can the Minister say that there was no substance?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I refer the honourable member to my answer (*a*).

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the manner that has been prescribed by the Acts and rules to the objection of a certain Circle Officer presiding over the meeting?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I will refer the honourable member to the Acts and rules. He will find it there.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that there is no such rule as mentioned in the reply?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I don't agree with the honourable member.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that there is no court-fee prescribed in the rules?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: That is quite true.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister please enlighten us as to what in his opinion is the basis for instituting an enquiry into the matter in spite of the fact that a member of this House personally brought complaints that the Circle Officer helped a particular gentleman in his election?

Mr. SPEAKER: The answer is there.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: I beg to know, Sir, what sort of basis the Hon'ble Minister wants over and above the fact that a member of this House has already put in a complaint?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state with reference to answer (*a*), viz., unsupported by any testimony, whether he wanted something of the nature of an affidavit or a fact upon which the District Magistrate could rely?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Evidence in support thereof may have been submitted.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Is it not a fact that because the member belongs to the Krishak-Praja Party that the enquiry was not made?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Representation of Scheduled Castes on District School Board, Mymensingh.

***255. Mr. MONOMOHAN DAS:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department aware—

(*i*) that in the District School Board, Mymensingh, the Scheduled Castes have got no representative; and

(*ii*) that the Hon'ble Minister assured on the floor of the House in the last Budget session that proper representation would be made in near future?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what action, if any, has been, or is being, taken in the matter?

MINISTER in charge of the EDUCATION DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) When the Mymensingh District School Board is reconstituted, Government will take into consideration the interests of the Scheduled Castes in the matter of appointing members.

Mr. MONMOHAN DAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the cause of the Scheduled Castes has been very badly neglected by the District Board of Mymensingh?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. MONMOHAN DAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the School Board will be reconstituted?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I am having the matter under consideration.

Mr. MONMOHAN DAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state on what basis the interest of the Scheduled Castes will be considered?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS: মন্ত্রীমহাশয় দয়া কোরে বোলবেন কি বর্ত্তমানে যে School Board রয়েছে সেখানে Scheduled Caste দের represent করার বিষয় কিছু ব্যবস্থা কোরেছেন কিনা?

Mr. SPEAKER: What is your question?

Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS: আমার question হচ্ছে, পরে এ বিষয় consider কোরবেন বোলে যে মন্ত্রীমহাশয় বোলছেন কিন্তু বর্ত্তমান সময়ে consider না করার কি কারণ আছে?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: সে বর্ত্তমান গভর্ণমেন্ট করেন নাই, পূর্ব্ব গভর্ণমেন্ট কোরেছেন।

Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS: আপনারাও তো কিছুই কোরছেন না।

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: না, আমরা যখন কোরতে পারবো তখন বিবেচনা কোরবো।

Mr. SPEAKER: I must ask the Hon'ble Minister to answer in English.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: But the member would not understand me in that case.

Mr. SPEAKER: As the language of the House is English, the Hon'ble Minister must answer in that language.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: But for whose benefit am I to answer in English?

Mr. SPEAKER: For the benefit of the House.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: Has the District School Board been reconstituted?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: The Board has not been reconstituted for about a year.

Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS: মন্ত্রীমহাশয় দয়া কোরে বলুন বর্ত্তমানে scheduled castes দের representation এর বিষয় consider করবার কোন ক্ষমতা তাঁদের আছে কিনা?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: No. The Board has been constituted, and unless I can change the constitution I cannot reconstitute the Board. At the present moment I cannot do it because under the Act the nominations are limited to the number of subdivisions.

Government stipends to the tols of Nabadwip.

***256. Mr. HARIPADA CHATTOPADHYAY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) the amount spent annually by Government for grant of stipends to the students of *tols* at Nabadwip; and

(*ii*) whether students belonging to the Brahmin, Kshatriya and Baidya castes only are eligible for Government stipends at the *tols* of Nabadwip?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) (*ii*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why the Resolution of the Council of Sanskrit Education, Bengal, dated 25th-26th November, 1933, subsequently approved by the Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, on 9th May, 1934, recommending grant of stipends to students irrespective of caste, has not been given effect to?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that there is a feeling against the grant of stipends to upper caste Hindus only?

(*d*) Is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of granting the stipends to deserving students irrespective of their castes?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: (*a*) (*i*) Rs. 6,000.

(*ii*) Yes.

(*b*) Because the Council of the Bengal Sanskrit Association subsequently modified their decision of 1933 and recommended reversion to the system of reservation.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) It is proposed that a portion of the Rs. 5 lakhs grant for the improvement of Scheduled Castes education should be set apart for granting stipends to the students of the Scheduled Castes for Sanskrit studies. The details of the scheme are now being worked out by the Special Officer for Scheduled Castes education.

Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if in addition to a sum of Rs. 5 lakhs meant for the Scheduled Castes, Government proposed to set apart a further sum of money for the purpose of providing stipends to students who are neither Brahmins, Kshatriyas, Baidyas nor the Scheduled Castes?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: No provision can be made for them from the Rs. 5 lakhs grant, but their case will be considered from the general revenues.

Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKER: With reference to answer (*d*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Scheduled Castes students reading in *tols* are entitled to the general revenues of Government?

Mr. SPEAKER: Your question is too vague.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether in these *tols* boys other than Brahmins, Kshatriyas and Vaidyas are not admitted?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Council of Sanskrit Education is the final authority in the matter of distributing the stipends?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Their recommendations are entitled to very great weight, and Government generally do not override their recommendations.

Mr. PROMATHA RANJAN THAKUR: With reference to question (*d*), I beg to submit that it has not been properly answered. May I know whether boys of the castes other than the Scheduled Castes and the three castes mentioned are entitled to scholarships out of this grant of Rs. 6,000?

Mr. SPEAKER: I think that question does not arise.

Mr. PROMATHA RANJAN THAKUR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what castes in Bengal are considered to be Kshatriyas?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether boys who are neither Scheduled Castes nor Brahmins, Kshatriyas and Vaidyas are entitled to these scholarships?

Mr. SPEAKER: I now understand the question. It appears that Government are now giving Rs. 6,000 to Brahmins, Kshatriyas and Vaidyas for scholarships, and they say that Rs. 5 lakhs has been given for the Scheduled Castes. The question, therefore, is whether any other castes are entitled to these scholarships.

I hope the Hon'ble Minister will now be able to answer the question.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Now I have followed it, and I think I should make a statement supplementing my answer which will make the position clear. Rs. 6,000 is annually granted to students of the three castes mentioned, for study of Sanskrit in these *tols*. We have added to that a sum of Rs. 10,000 for improvement of *tol* education. Over and above that, we have got Rs. 5 lakhs for the improvement of the education of Scheduled Castes students, and stipends will be given to Scheduled Castes students out of this Rs. 5 lakhs initially, and when that fund is exhausted we will give more money to Scheduled Castes students. As regards castes other than the Scheduled Castes mentioned in the question, out of the increased grant we will grant stipends when applications are made. If there are deserving students, we will certainly grant more money and, if necessary, we will increase the grant in order to give an opportunity to suitable students of all communities for reading in the schools.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(to which answers were laid on the table)

Hindu students reading in maktabs.

88. Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing, district by district, how many Hindu students are reading in *maktabs* at the present time?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware—

(*i*) that *maktabs* are schools on Islamic basis with Islamic religious and cultural atmosphere; and

(*ii*) that many thousands of Hindu students have to read in *maktabs* for want of general primary school in the areas concerned?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the affirmative, when does the Hon'ble Minister propose to remove this treatment to the Hindu minority community of Bengal?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: (*a*) The figures are not available, and cannot be compiled without a great deal of labour.

(*b*) (*i*) No. *Maktabs* are primary schools for Muslims in which religious instruction, in addition to secular instruction, is given.

(*ii*) Yes.

(*c*) Hindu students will be under no compulsion to receive any save purely secular education.

Maulvi ABUL HASHIM: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that Hindus do not object to sending their boys to Christian and missionary colleges and schools where there is a Christian religious and cultural atmosphere?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a matter of argument.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how the figures not available now could be given in answer to a similar question two years ago?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: The same question?

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Not the same question but a similar question. Surely, it could not be the same question!

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: If the figures were given only two years ago, the honourable member may take it that there has been no change since then, and the figures then given may still be accepted.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: With reference to answer (*b*) (*i*), is the Hon'ble Minister aware that these very expressions are used as regards Maktabs in Government reports themselves?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Yes, Sir.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: With reference to answer (*b*) (*ii*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether primary schools will be provided immediately in those areas where Hindu students for want of any other schools have to study in the Maktabs?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: In answer to a similar question some time ago, Sir, I said that steps would be taken to have schools suited to the needs of Hindu boys, and it will be a policy which will be considered by the District Schools Board primarily, so that Hindu boys may not have to undergo unnecessary harassment.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: In view of the increasing number of Maktabs, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to consider the desirability of arranging for Hindu religious training in such Maktabs, because it will not be profitable——

Mr. SPEAKER: No arguments, please. Will you please frame your question leaving out the arguments?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: The argument portion may be deleted.

Mr. SPEAKER: What is your question?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: My question is simple, viz., will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to consider the desirability of providing Hindu religious training in the Maktabs in rural areas where in the immediate neighbourhood there is no similar "Hindu" school?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: All primary schools, or by whatever name they may be called, will come under the jurisdiction of the District Schools Board, and I have no doubt that they will be able to so arrange matters that the religious requirements of all communities will be provided for.

Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS: মন্ত্রীমহাশয় কি জানেন যে মক্তবে ধর্ম্মবিষয় শিক্ষা ছাড়াও মক্তবে সাহিত্যের যে ভাষা প্রচলিত সেগুলিতেও হিন্দুদের পক্ষে আপত্তিকর বিষয় আছে?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government will be willing to provide for the education of boys who are either athists or do not believe in any particular religion whatever?

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not think that there is any scope for that. (Laughter.)

Gurus admitted into Guru Training classes, Rangpur.

89. Babu KSHETRA NATH SINGHA: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing for the years, 1937, 1938 and 1939, in respect of the Rangpur district the number of *gurus* admitted into the Guru Training classes from—

(1) Caste Hindus;

(2) Scheduled Castes; and

(3) Muhammadans?

(*b*) How is this number fixed?

(*c*) Has Government issued any circular fixing the ratio?

(*d*) If the answer to (*c*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the ratio fixed for the year 1939?

(*e*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the circular referred to in (*c*) above?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ:

	1937.	1938.	1939.
(*a*) Caste Hindus ...	2	5	9
Scheduled Castes ...	13	14	16
Muhammadans ...	75	71	65

(*b*) and (*c*) The question of reservation of seats in Guru Training Schools for different communities on the basis of population is under the consideration of Government.

(*d*) and (*e*) Do not arise.

Message from the Council.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Secretary will now please read the message received from the Secretary to the Bengal Legislative Council.

The Secretary then read the following message received from the Secretary to the Bengal Legislative Council:—

The Bengal Legislative Council at its meeting held on the 7th March, 1939, passed the Bengal Dentists' Bill, 1938, and the Bengal Tanks Improvement Bill, 1938, with amendments, and that the concurrence of the Assembly has been asked to the amendments made in the Bills.

The Bills showing the amendments *in loco* have been laid on the table of members to-day.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

XVII, etc.—Irrigation.

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 34,14,000 be granted for expenditure under the heads "XVII—Irrigation—Working Expenses", "18—Other Revenue Expenditure financed from ordinary revenues", "18(1)—Other Revenue Expenditure financed from Famine Relief Fund", "19—Construction of Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works financed from ordinary revenues", and "68—Construction of Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works not charged to revenue".

Sir, in going to present the Irrigation Budget for 1939-40, I should at the outset refer to the detailed list of original works included in appendix A of the explanatory memorandum, and I think I need not take the time of the House by detailing them once again. On a perusal of these schemes, Sir, it will be noticed that a good number of them are intended to satisfy the crying needs of the localities concerned. But in making a selection of them we have also kept in view the requirements of a comprehensive Irrigation policy for the province as a whole.

Sir, in my last budget speech I made a brief reference to the seriousness of the major river problems confronting the Government and the imperative need of having a comprehensive and at the same time a forward Irrigation policy. I now propose to acquaint the House with the steps that have been taken by me since then towards arriving at a satisfactory solution. The river problems in Bengal are extremely complex and to a certain extent unique; many of them are closely interlinked; and some of the measures suggested by our experts though intended for the ultimate good of the country, might adversely affect

for the time being certain vested interests. It was, therefore, thought prudent that enlightened public opinion should be consulted before we decide to take up a comprehensive programme on certain definite lines. The Chief Engineer prepared a comprehensive monograph explaining the seriousness of the river problems of Bengal and indicating the lines on which a solution should be found. This monograph, along with a questionnaire, was circulated under my direction to the members of the Legislatures, Divisional Commissioners, Collectors, and other public bodies to ascertain their individual views. The replies received were discussed threadbare in an expert conference consisting of eminent scientists and people experienced in similar lines of work, held by me in July last year at Calcutta. I am glad to be able to inform this House that this expert conference mainly endorsed the lines of approach suggested in the Chief Engineer's monograph and fully encouraged the Government in taking up the comprehensive programme detailed therein. We have decided to follow this programme as far as possible, and I do claim this to be an important landmark in our progress towards solving the complicated problems of Irrigation and river control in Bengal.

Having got the programme, the next question to which I applied myself was the reorganisation of the department, so that the programme may be implemented efficiently and expeditiously. The broad lines of this reorganisation may now be indicated. We have decided, firstly, to retain on a temporary basis, to start with, the Development Circle with suitable modifications designed to expedite the preparation of major development schemes. The special feature of this reorganisation is that hereafter three divisions under one Superintending Engineer to co-ordinate their activities will devote their energies mainly to the investigation and preparation of these schemes, viz.:—

(*a*) Western Development Division will take up the preparation of the More and Dwarkeswar Reservoir projects, of which investigation has already been completed, and any other major development schemes that may be brought to light hereafter in Western Bengal.

(*b*) A new investigation division called Eastern Development Division is proposed to be formed and the duties entrusted to it will be to investigate and prepare a scheme for flushing the decadent tracts in Central Bengal by resuscitating the spill channels and diverting through them a substantial portion of the Ganges flood. The following objectives have naturally been kept in view: (*i*) to arrest the growing deterioration in health and productivity of the soil and to restore the old prosperity to this important area; (*ii*) to lower the level of the destructive flood in the Ganges so as to make it harmless and beneficial; (*iii*) to improve the drainage channels including the tidal channels and make them self-maintaining; (*iv*) to arrest the advance of salt-water limit up the Delta.

A contour survey of decadent Central Bengal has already been taken up and is likely to be completed next year; and steps are also being taken to collect the necessary hydraulic data.

An estimate for contour survey of the decadent tract in Northern Bengal has also recently been submitted to me, and I intend to employ the Eastern Development Division to take up the same and investigate and prepare, if feasible, a flushing scheme for Northern Bengal as well by resuscitating the moribund rivers and diverting waters from the Teesta. This will of course take its turn after the scheme for Central Bengal is completed.

(c) One Design Division is proposed to be added to take up the preparation of important designs in connection with these development projects.

As regards Northern Bengal, there are urgent works which cannot wait for the contour survey and I have accordingly made provision in the budget for one subdivision in addition to the Rajshahi subdivision already available to serve the seven districts in North Bengal.

As regards Eastern Bengal, it is indeed unfortunate that very little is known at present to the department, and the staff is rather hopelessly insufficient to look after all these important districts. Then, again, there is the immediate and crying need of dealing effectively with the problem presented by the old Brahmaputra in Mymensingh district. I have accordingly made provision in the budget for a new division with headquarters at Mymensingh, entrusted with the task of investigating into the possibilities of improvement of the old Brahmaputra and prepare necessary schemes, if feasible. I have also proposed that this special division for Eastern Bengal will have a new subdivision at Comilla and will study the irrigation needs of Mymensingh, Dacca, Tippera, Noakhali and Chittagong districts.

I may be permitted to mention another improvement which it is my intention to introduce to effect expedition and economy in the cost of the development schemes. One of the recommendations of the Expert Conference referred to before is that a Hydraulic Research Laboratory should be established in Bengal for the purpose of scientific study of the complicated river problems and their solutions. I have become convinced, after my recent visit to the Hydraulic Research Station at Lahore, that not only will the experiments with river models give valuable indications as to the correct solution of our complicated river problems, but they will also effect considerable economy in the ultimate cost by making it possible in many cases to test the proposals before they are actually executed. A report by my Chief Engineer on this subject is at present under consideration, and the Government are in communication with the neighbouring provincial Governments

of Bihar, Orissa and Assam and public statutory bodies like the Port Commissioners and the Calcutta Corporation who may feel interested in such a scheme.

Sir, I feel called upon now to make a passing reference to the important consideration of funds at this stage and the heavy costs involved in taking up any of the major schemes that might materialise. It is indeed obvious that such big schemes cannot be met from current revenues, but will have to be financed from loan programmes, which again will be risky to undertake unless we are assured at the outset of the productive nature of the undertakings. The Bengal Development Act was a constructive manner of solving this intricate financial problem involved in the huge unproductive undertakings of Irrigation and Navigation, and I think I should welcome from my friends opposite any helpful criticism of the matter with a view to encourage us in taking up major Irrigation schemes for the vital regeneration of Bengal.

I have so far confined myself to the financing of major Irrigation schemes. But as regards smaller schemes of local interest, I may tell the House that we have also taken up a comprehensive policy. We have gathered fairly an exhaustive list of the Irrigation needs of each district suggested by the Collectors in consultation with Chairmen of District Boards, and these are at present being examined by a Special Officer deputed for the purpose. In order that we can take up major Irrigation projects with undivided attention, we are examining the possibilities of a general policy of decentralisation entrusting District Boards to administer and finance minor schemes, with the Government, of course, in the background retaining ultimate power of supervision and contributing a share, perhaps a very large share of the cost from revenues.

The House will no doubt want to know what steps we have been taking in the shape of remedial measures against the recent devastating floods in the Ganges and in the connected channels. I may tell this House that under my direction soon after the floods, the Chief Engineer prepared a critical study of the causes and the remedial measures that should be adopted to meet the same. I am told that we can have no control over the elementary causes of floods, nor over the natural rise of spill area which is tending to raise the flood level. Of the controllable factors, the most important ones are noted by the experts to be, (*a*) control of extensive deforestation that is now going on in the catchment basin of the Ganges, and (*b*) encouraging afforestation. As the forest areas in the Ganges catchment lie mostly in United Provinces and Bihar, the co-operation of these Governments would be necessary, and I am glad to be able to inform this House that thanks to the initiative taken by this Government in persuading the Central Board of Irrigation and the United Provinces Government to take interest

in this all-important question, an Inter-Provincial Flood Conference was held at Lucknow in January this year, in which representatives from Bengal, Bihar and United Provinces participated. The most important recommendation made by this conference, as hon'ble members are undoubtedly aware, is the proposed constitution of a Ganges River Commission to deal with all questions concerning the conservancy of the Ganges River Basin. It is hoped that this proposed Commission will soon be constituted—a small interim Committee is already in existence—making it possible to co-ordinate the different policies towards the Ganges and prevent the accentuation of the flood problem in any particular area.

Another important remedial measure is the resuscitation of the moribund spill channels in Central Bengal so that they can carry their due share of the flood water, thus relieving the flood congestion in the Ganges. I have already indicated that important steps have been taken in this direction, and there are budget provisions for the next year as well. We have undertaken the collection of statistics of rainfall as this has an important bearing on the question of floods. I have also just sanctioned an aerial survey of the Ganges from Rajmahal to Goalundo, as I am told, this is an absolute necessity for the purpose of controlling flood and preparing a flushing scheme.

Sir, I am afraid, I have probably exhausted the patience of my friends by this long narrative. I hope, however, that I have been able to convince them that a serious endeavour is now being made towards the solution of the complicated river problems of Bengal. Our pace of progress is admittedly slow and the reason for the same is not far to seek. Firstly, we have to make up leeway for the years lost, extending well over a century, as our problems had been allowed to accumulate to their present proportions by the past policy of *laissez faire*. Secondly, careful and scientific planning is absolutely essential, and one should not mind the pace if we can be on surer grounds by a little bit more of careful handling. The tale of the dredgers is perhaps a significant pointer to the dangers of unthinking hurry in this serious matter. We have, I admit, been cautious, but I think, we have been able to cover much good ground towards taking up a comprehensive irrigation policy. I claim no spectacular results; what I do claim is that a good and at the same time, a sure beginning has been made for spectacular results to be achieved in the near future.

With these words, Sir, I beg to move my demands.

Mr. SPEAKER: I find I have been presented with a formidable list of speakers. Irrigation seems to be a subject in which everyone has got something to say irrespective of party alignments. As it appears, we have got just one hour and twenty minutes before the evening interval, and after that, one hour and a half. I do not think

it will be enough for the discussion on Irrigation, and, as it looks, both Civil Works and Jails will be locked out. In view of the demand of the members to speak specially on Irrigation, I will have to give an opportunity to them.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 34,14,000 under the head "Grant No. 10—Irrigation" be reduced by the sum of Rs. 100 to draw attention to the failure of Government to formulate a comprehensive policy and co-ordinated planning for tackling the irrigation problems of Bengal as also the failure of Government to utilise the budget provisions for the current year.

From the time of Adam practically, we have been hearing of the complexities of the river problems of Bengal and last year we heard in *extenso* about the proposed planning in this connection. I had in that year also explained how I viewed the problems of rivers of Bengal, and I analysed the different kinds of problems that demanded immediate attention. I find to-day in the note read out to the House by the Hon'ble the Minister the same old argument, the same old story of complexities of problems, the same old promise of Government attempting to do something and the same old bad tale about want of finance and want of sufficient data.

I would like first of all to draw the attention of the House and of the Government to the very great urgency of irrigation in all its aspects in this province for the very vital problems of living of the people, and I would urge on them that a problem like this demands more quick and more determined approach. A policy which alone can render it possible for the people of Bengal to live should not be tackled in the same manner as has been done so far. Questions regarding the rivers of Bengal have been raised and various problems have been drawn attention to in different ways and from different angles of view. Broadly speaking from all the different motions and emotions that have been permitted to be moved and expressed on this issue, one finds that the complaints of the people of Bengal can be summarised under three or four heads. Bengal complains about the utter neglect of irrigation proper by the Irrigation Department, and of the problem of water-supply for the rural areas for carrying on agricultural operations. Bengal complains about the dead and decaying rivers and of the failure of drainage, of the increasing waterlogging of different areas, leading to death and depopulation through diseases. Bengal complains about the dangers of erosion in East Bengal, the dangers of embankments and the dangers due to diversions of rivers. Above all, during the last two years, we have been faced with the problems connected with the Damodar Canal rates and the rigorous procedure adopted there for collections; as also the problems arising out of floods. These are the five different issues that have been before

us from time to time. Before drawing a picture about the administrative arrangements and the financial resources of Bengal, we would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister how these five issues have been tackled by him and his department during the last year, and how they are proposed to be tackled by them in the course of the next year.

So far as the irrigation problems proper are concerned, an expert committee stated that hardly one-third of the attention of the department can be devoted to irrigation. The Irrigation Department is concerned with five different kinds of duties. Of these five different duties navigation, that is to say, maintenance of navigation channels between Calcutta and East Bengal through the Calcutta canals system and the Sunderbans areas as well as the Madaripur Bhil Route occupy a very substantial portion of the attention of the department and also entail an annual loss of about Rs. 2 to 3 lakhs.

The next important item of work that the department has to perform is to watch and to advise on the activities of other departments in connection with construction of roads, construction of railways and the like. They have also to examine the question of maintenance of rivers and water channels, with a view to find out if the drainage has been properly maintained. They have the question of reclamation of waterlogged areas to deal with. They have also the question of floods and the control of floods to enquire into.

From all the questions raised from time to time one thing prominently comes out, that so far as the department is concerned, the officers are either bewildered with the complexities and magnitude of the problems under each head and the department has not the proper type of men to tackle the problems or the officers silently watch and wait for nature and Providence to come to their relief. From the speech delivered just now by the Hon'ble Minister I grow pessimistic about the possibility of Government taking active measures to tackle these problems. I find in the concluding lines of his speech a reference to the catchment areas in some other province where deforestation has been going on and in the control of that deforestation and afforestation in those areas Government find to be the only possible relief to control floods in Bengal. If that be so, I would submit that the Government have not applied their mind properly to the whole question. If water comes from other provinces, we must see how best to divert that water, or, if that is impossible, how best to utilise that water to the benefit of this province. If we cannot otherwise tackle it we have got the machinery by which we can ask the Government of India to intervene in the matter and stop the water that is not beneficial to this province from flowing over us in torrents.

I submit, Sir, the problems as I have analysed them last year still demand a very thorough and careful examination. An analytical survey of the river system of Bengal has been made very ably by the

present Chief Engineer Mr. Mazumdar. The Hon'ble Minister also in the course of an interesting speech delivered some time ago to the University students made a good survey of the position. The malady is there. There is hardly any doubt about the existence of the malady. What remains now is to find out the remedy, and there I would like Government to state whether so far they have applied their minds properly in this direction. We have been told just now that Government had called a committee—a committee of experts and of persons interested in such problems. The committee examined a long list of questions which was circulated as the hon'ble members very well know. The committee met and examined those questions which were, as you will all remember, of the nature of direct conclusions given in the form of leading questions. Some of them were absolutely axiomatic and the committee met and found with profound show of scientific research that (Here the Member exhibited a white pamphlet which he quoted.) "(1) it was agreed that the rivers are an essential factor for the rural development of Bengal." The committee met and discovered other similar things and passed resolutions that though the total available water resources are sufficient to meet the water requirements, the deterioration in health and productivity of the soil is due to faulty distribution. The committee also discovered that this faulty distribution is attributable partly to natural causes and partly to human interference and so on and so forth. I went very carefully into all these questions and answers and the conclusions which the expert committee came to. I find only one recommendation that is worth anything, which might be considered to be a departure from something with which we have been served in the past, and that is this: that the proposed Waterways Board may be a commercial and autonomous body with only limited control by Government and the Trustees are more likely to look to the revenue-producing aspects of the waterways and consequently the Waterways Board proposal should not be proceeded with. The committee recommended therefore the formation of a Bengal River and Drainage Board instead, and they said that unless steps were taken to remove the present drawbacks of the Waterways Board as contemplated, it should not be proceeded with. The Government still persists in assuring the House that the Waterways Board will be constituted and a sum of Rs. 2,50,000 has been provided for the same. That is how the committee's only recommendation of major importance is going to be respected. The other recommendation of value—immense value—to the province, which is no new departure but a repetition of old demands, is the institution of a hydraulic research laboratory in this province without delay. "In this province and without delay" are very important words which constitute the essentials of the recommendation, for, Sir, right from 1907 we were hearing about the want of data. In 1921 when this department was constituted, we heard of the same complaint. In 1930, the Hopkyns Committee, that

was asked by Government to make a special study of the irrigation problems of the province, came to the same conclusion that immediately, without any possible delay, Bengal should have a hydraulic research laboratory. Ten long years have since passed, and yet the Hon'ble Minister has taken time to convince himself by a personal tour of the Punjab that there is a necessity for a Research Laboratory and another two years will perhaps be taken in finding out whether there will be any land available, men suitable and money obtainable. If the position is that we must have a River Commission and a Research Laboratory, why not have it now—to-morrow? Take off the sum of Rs. 2,50,000 provided for the Waterways Board and with this money have a hydraulic research laboratory to-morrow in the best place available. I am informed that those eminent experts assembled there as well as those experts whom the Hon'ble Minister had consulted in the Punjab have advised him then and there that he could proceed with a scheme of this type at a cost of Rs. 5 lakhs only. This money will not be spent for nothing. He will soon have schemes that will be of immense value and without such study, if he proceeded with schemes he was likely to waste public resources. Even then, why are these tall talks proceeding about big schemes when Government do not possess data, when they do not intend to have the proper administrative machinery to collect data forthwith? It is on this point, Sir, that I would like to have a categorical answer from the Hon'ble Minister.

I have in my hand a document supposed to be confidential containing the result of that glorious conference, and I find that it is not even worth the paper on which it is printed, and I warn the newspapers which had been boosting this so-called expert conference called by the Hon'ble the Minister for Communications about its real character. This conference which has been a mountain in labour has produced a mouse. I would like the Hon'ble Minister, the son of Bengal as he is, feeling as he does, seeing as he does with his own eyes, to tackle the real problems of the dying rivers in Bengal. It is only the other day he had been out on the rivers. He has personally seen with his own eyes the devastations caused, and he has seen with his own eyes hundreds of villagers with their children and their womenfolk and with all their belongings perched on trees or on houses collapsed for days together standing there without food, with water, water, on every side but not a drop to drink, because all the water was polluted. I would ask the Hon'ble Minister to have adequate feelings and to see if he could not do anything before he is turned out of office.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit that of all persons whom this Government had brought, Sir William Wilcox was the only expert who had correctly assessed the position of the Bengal Government. He said: "As a result of the department's misapplied activities, Bengal is strewn to-day with wrecks of useless and harmful works."

There is no planning, there is no policy, and money has been wasted on schemes not worth a scrap of paper. A lot of claim is made on behalf of the Burdwan Damodar Canal. I would like this House to enquire of those members of Burdwan who know the place, and to understand and realise if really they can get any benefit from a scheme which is meant to supply water during the rainy season only. There is no provision for storage. The water is taken out from one upper reach of the river, drained out and thrown into another place during a particular period of the year when people are rather in need of diverting or draining away the water and not of supply of more water at that time. And yet that scheme is being boosted as a glorious achievement for which people must suffer and for which all sorts of tortures and indignities are to-day being inflicted upon the people of the locality. The development scheme has been practically rendered a failure by Government through ill-conceived arrangements, and I submit that the responsibility is entirely that of the present Ministry, when a scheme, when an Act, which was probably capable of doing immense good to the whole province has been absolutely nullified by the activities of the present Ministry.

Sir, I submit that it will serve no useful purpose in calling names. I know that the problems are vast and need a very careful study, and I would therefore request the Hon'ble Minister to consider a few tangible, concrete proposals which I would now like to place before this House.

The first and foremost suggestion that I would make is to have the present policy of the Government changed with regard to the approach to the whole question of irrigation from the point of view of commercial profit to the point of view of service to the people. This cry has been there for a number of years. Members of the House may not possibly know that every scheme that is drawn up has got to be loaded with an additional establishment cost of about 24 per cent. A scheme of Rs. 10,000 has therefore got to be arranged for with Rs. 12,500, because the whole scheme must be a commercial scheme which must pay its way. If that is the position, why should we go to Government and ask them to incur all these additional expenses for all sorts of things? If a few persons can undertake without going to Government and set the scheme on foot, we can have that done by a private limited company and make a profit out of it, if there is any. The point is that the approach is wrong. The approach is not one of service as the Police Department claims to render: it is not one of service as the Education Department claims to render: it is a question of money making on the basis of a commercial concern. That policy must be abandoned without any further delay.

Secondly, Sir, we must promote certain changes in the present legislation that hampers the tackling of smaller projects by local

bodies, by persons who are immediately in the know of the requirements. The Agriculture and Sanitary Improvements Act, the Embankments Act, the Bengal Development Act and the Waterways Act are all there. All these four Acts need careful examination and certain steps should be taken to see that beneficent measures may be undertaken by voluntary private initiative with the help of the district board and charitably disposed people and with the technical help and advice from Government. There should also be a special officer who would be working independently of the red tape of the department to enquire into the drainage problems. Sir, to-day the position is such that it is impossible for the department to tackle any suggestion because they are short of men. Hitherto we have only had two circles to deal with—South and South-West Bengal. North and East Bengal have not been in the picture. The whole problem of irrigation has been concentrated in studying the navigation channels of Calcutta and East Bengal and the tidal channels near the sea face. North Bengal had, as if, no problem of irrigation, and that is how those parts have been treated. Sir, I submit that the suggestion of the Hopkyns Committee might be usefully adopted and reorganisation effected. There must be at least 12 divisions tackling in all parts of Bengal the different and multifarious problems in each, because in some there is the problem of water-supply, in some the problem of erosion, in some the problem of drainage and in others the problem of floods. You cannot have all these problems tackled by a handful of officers who have no other time to devote to these problems except to go through the departmental files. I submit that these questions and other questions of similar nature have been under Government's consideration for the last so many years, and yet nothing has been done. I think the department is convinced, the Government appear to be convinced that there is something wrong somewhere, but they have no remedy. Either the Hon'ble Minister is rather a meek sort of a person who cannot have his own way, or the Cabinet does not realise the immense importance of irrigation to the province as a whole, to take responsibility in this direction and to supply the Hon'ble Minister with the necessary finances.

I submit, Sir, that reforms should be immediately introduced—and it is possible because these are in the Government files—to ensure co-ordination of efforts in the districts and at headquarters, not only between officials but also between officials and non-officials, to undertake projects not only from Government funds but also from local bodies' funds and private resources, and to secure simplification of procedure. These have been suggested and accepted by the Government officials themselves.

Sir, the needs of Bengal are immense. Immediately around Calcutta, the problems have been such during the last few years that

probably in a few years more, water of Calcutta will not flow out because the places outside are getting higher and higher than Calcutta itself. In the immediate neighbourhood of this city hundreds of villages remain under water for a good part of the year as the water has no way out to go.

(At this stage the member having reached his time-limit, resumed his seat.)

Mr. SPEAKER: If the Coalition Party puts up only one speaker on behalf of the party, it will be possible to give him more time, but it will not be possible to do so if there are individual speakers. Then I find that to my left there are a large number of speakers, and if each is given five minutes, it will be possible for me to adjust the time, provided, of course, members would not ask for extra minutes.

Maulvi ABDUL BARI: But, Sir, you have been kind enough to some member of the Congress in giving extra time.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have given it purposely, because I find that so far as the Coalition Party is concerned, up till now not a single speaker has spoken on behalf of the party. If anybody on my right can tell me that he will be speaking on behalf of the party, I am quite prepared to give him that latitude. But unfortunately while the Congress Party has been giving me such notices, I have not got intimation to that effect from the Coalition Party. I can, however, assure my friends to the right that I am anxious to give as much time to all the speakers as it lies within my power to do.

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: I think, on behalf of the Ministerial Party, I mean the Coalition Party, the Hon'ble Ministers speak and speak for quite a long time. So, it is natural that no other member of that party need speak.

Mr. SPEAKER: Unfortunately, however, except for the difference in name, I do not find any difference between the speeches made on my right and on my left.

Mr. MD. ABUL FAZL: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 34,14,000 under the head "XVII, etc.—Irrigation" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the failure of Government to undertake steps for resuscitation of dying rivers in Bengal.

Sir, I should like to lay stress on the absence of any comprehensive scheme for the prevention of floods and utter negligence of Government to resuscitate the dead and dying rivers of Bengal with a view

to easy means of communications, eradication of malaria and other diseases in adjoining areas due to such silting up of rivers, and improvement of agriculture.

The Irrigation Budget includes a provision of 2½ lakhs of rupees for the Waterways Board, which Board has however not yet been constituted. In consideration of the urgent necessity of irrigation projects throughout nearly the whole of Bengal, the earmarking of this Rs. 2½ lakhs is unnecessary for the present.

Sir, no step has been taken or is in contemplation of Government for tackling the situation created by the recent floods, which is another aspect of the main problem of resuscitation of the dead and dying rivers. The Hon'ble Minister has taken no step whatsoever to give effect to the scheme of a hydraulic research laboratory with a view to study the special problems of river draining and erosion in Bengal as stressed by the conference of experts held recently at Calcutta.

The problem of dead and dying rivers is most acute in Murshidabad, Nadia, 24-Parganas, Jessore and Faridpur districts, and the continuous deterioration of the spill channels of the Ganges such as Mathabhanga, Bhagirathi, Jalangi, Bhairab and other rivers. This deterioration caused by changes in the course of the Ganges and its eastward march along the Padma towards the Meghna and the Brahmaputra should be checked by reviving these spill channels and ensuring flood irrigation of Central and a portion of East Bengal.

Sir, although the Hon'ble Minister is not in a position to give effect to the ideal of Barrage Scheme suggested by Sir William Wilcox for a portion of the Ganges flood to pass through the Jalangi and the Mathabhanga and their numerous branches with a syphon under the Garai for Faridpur, yet the less ambitious schemes taken up by him with regard to a contour survey of the decadant tracts of Central Bengal for collecting data for flushing schemes and the concrete scheme of resuscitation of Bhairab river in Jessore, are totally insufficient to meet the pressing needs of the province and he has signally failed to make any appreciable beginning with a view to put fresh life into the streams that had once been active in Bengal.

Turning to the Orissa province, we see that the Government has prepared several schemes of irrigation including the Tank Restoration Scheme, Rushikulya System and the Mahanadi Canal System, and sums of money have been provided for each of these schemes beginning of which has already been made. Zemindars have been asked to improve their irrigation works and water-supply sources. Government have offered them loans on easy rates of interest to be realised for this purpose. The province of Orissa is also subject to floods and the highest on record reached in 1937 which caused widespread disaster. A large sum of money was spent for emergency relief such as aid in house-building and agricultural loans. Seeds were distributed to

enable the flood-stricken people to grow a second crop. That Government sought the advice of the eminent Engineer Sir Viseswaraya who also put forward an ambitious scheme incurring very heavy expenditure, which could not be taken up for want of funds; but on his advice and on the light of experience of past floods certain works have already been undertaken by that Government at a cost of about Rs. 2,500. Of these the most important are the Sur Lake Cut and the Palpur Cut which provide a direct opening to the sea. Bengal, a province which depends mainly on agriculture, cannot prosper without irrigation, but the irrigation possibilities of this province have not been explored. In the last Budget Session I put a question to the Hon'ble Minister with regard to the dredging of the Kumar river.

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Khan Bahadur Abidur Reza Chowdhury, I think you are not moving your cut motion, but speaking generally?

Khan Bahadur Maulvi ABIDUR REZA CHOWDHURY: আমার নামে যে cut motion রহিয়াছে সেটা আমি move করিব না। আমাদের এই বাংলাদেশ, নদীমাতৃক দেশ বোলে এক সময় বিখ্যাত ছিল। কিন্তু আজ বঙ্গদেশের অধিকাংশ নদীই হাজা, মজা, চরা হইয়া পড়ায় কৃষকদের অবস্থা চরমে পৌঁছাইয়াছে। প্রকৃতির এই খেয়ালের শ্বেত প্রভুদের ব্যবসাবাণিজ্যের সুবিধার্থে বহু নদীর বক্ষে লৌহস্তম্ভ বিদ্ধ করিয়া বাঙ্গালীর দুর্দ্দশা আরও চরমে পৌঁছাইয়াছে। কারণ স্রোতস্বিনী নদীই কৃষির প্রধান সম্বল। বাংলাদেশের কোন অঞ্চলেই নদীগুলি ঠিকভাবে আছে কি না সন্দেহ। কবি লিখেছেন—সুজলা, সুফলা, শস্যশ্যামলা এই বাংলাদেশ কিন্তু তার পরিবর্ত্তে আমরা এখন দেখতে পাচ্ছি অজলা, অফলা শস্যবিহীন বাংলাদেশ। কিন্তু এই যে দুর্দ্দশা হয়েছে আমাদের বর্ত্তমান গভর্ণমেন্ট সে দিকে উদাসীন নহেন। আমরা দেখতে পাই Irrigation নামে একটা Department রয়েছে, এবং সেই Department এর জন্য কয়েক লক্ষ টাকারও বরাদ্দ আছে। কিন্তু যদি একটু মনোযোগের সঙ্গে এই বিভাগের খরচের দিকে নজর দেওয়া যায় তাহলে দেখা যায় যে সেই টাকার অধিকাংশই কর্ম্মচারীদের বেতন এবং T. A এবং ড্রেজার নামীয় শ্বেত হস্তী পোষাতেই ব্যয় হইয়া যায়। বাকি কাজের জন্য যে সামান্য টাকা থাকে সে টাকাও সেভাবে ব্যয় হয়। আমাদের কুমিল্লার গোমতি বাঁধ সম্বন্ধীয় ব্যাপারে বিভাগীয় কমিশনার ও জিলার জজ সাহেব যে কমিশন বসিয়াছে, তাহার রিপোর্ট প্রকাশিত হলেই কেলেঙ্কারী অনেকটা প্রকাশিত হইবে আশা করা যায়। ত্রিপুরার তদানিন্তন জনপ্রিয় ডিঃ ম্যাজিষ্ট্রেট মিঃ এস, এন, রায়, আই, সি, এস,এর মতন সুযোগ্য লোক থাকাতেই এসব ব্যাপার প্রকাশ হইবার ব্যবস্থা হইয়াছে। বাংলার বহুস্থানেই যে এ Department এর এসব হইতেছে, তাহার খবর কে রাখে বা রাখিবার চেষ্টা করে। এ Department টি এতকাল রিজার্ভ অর্থাৎ গভর্ণমেন্টের খাস দপ্তরে ছিল। বর্ত্তমানে মিনিষ্টারদের হাতে আসিয়াছে। আশা করা যায়, ভারপ্রাপ্ত মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয় বাহাদুরের কর্ম্মকুশলতায় এ বিভাগের সব গলদ বিদূরিত হইয়া বিভাগটি জনপ্রিয় হইবে। যাহা হউক আমি আশা করি এখন নিজের district এর বিষয়ে দুএকটী কথা বোলবো। ত্রিপুরা জিলার মধ্য দিয়া তিতাস, গুমতী ও ডাকাতিয়া নদী প্রবাহিত হয়ে ঐ জিলার কৃষি ও বাণিজ্য সম্পদ বৃদ্ধি করিতেছিল। কিন্তু এখন উক্ত সব নদীগুলি হাজা, মজা, হইয়া পড়িতেছে। ডাকাতিয়া নদী লাকসাম, হাজিগঞ্জ, চাঁদপুর, ফরিদগঞ্জ ও নোয়াখালী জিলার

রায়পুরা থানার মধ্য দিয়া প্রবাহিত হ'য়ে বিশাল মেঘনার যে স্থানে পতিত হয়েছে সেই স্থানটি চরা পড়ায় জোয়ারের সময় মেঘনা হইতে লবণাক্ত জল ডাকাতিয়ায় প্রবেশ করে, ভাঁটার সময় সেই জল সম্পূর্ণ যাইতে পারে না। কাজেই সেই লবণাক্ত জলদ্বারা ডাকাতিয়ার প্রায় উভয় পাড়ে ১০০ মাইলের মধ্যে কোন ফসল গত তিন বৎসরের মধ্যে হইতেছে না। বর্ষার পর সমস্ত মাছ মরিয়া ছাপ হয়ে যায়; দুর্গন্ধে নদীপথে লোকচলা অসম্ভব হয়ে যায়। গত অক্টোবর মাসে মাননীয় মন্ত্রী সুরাবর্দ্দী সাহেবের সেখানে সমাগম হয়েছিলো, এবং ৫ হাজার হাজার লোক ওঁর কাছে এসে তাদের অসুবিধার কথা নিবেদন করে। খুলনার একজন Irrigation Department এর ভদ্রলোকের সঙ্গে আমার আলাপ হয়। তাঁহার লোক নাকি কুমিল্লা গিয়া এই ডাকাতিয়া নদী খুঁজিয়া পান নাই। আমাদের ওখানে প্রজারা কোনরকম রবিশস্য এবং পাটধান প্রভৃতি কিছু পায় নাই। কিন্তু দুঃখের বিষয় District Magistrate enquiry কোরে প্রজাদের সুদের টাকা পর্য্যন্ত মিটিয়ে দিতে বোলেছেন। আমরা মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহোদয়ের নিকট প্রার্থনা করি তিনি যেন এসম্বন্ধে একটা কিছু প্রতিকার করেন। তারপর গোমতি নদীর আর একটী ব্যাপার তার যে embankment রয়েছে——

(Here the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: মাননীয় সভাপতি মহাশয়, আমি আমার নামে যে ছাটাই প্রস্তাব রোয়েছে তা পেশ কোরছি, যে মাননীয় সেচ সচিব মহাশয়ের ৩৪,১৪,০০০ টাকার দাবি হইতে ১০০ টাকা কমানো হোক। যেহেতু বাংলাদেশের নদী, নালা, খাল, বিলগুলির সম্বন্ধে গভর্ণমেন্ট সম্পূর্ণ উদাসীন সেইজন্য সেচ বিভাগের বরাদ্দ হইতে ১০০ টাকা cut করার জন্য আমি এই প্রস্তাব উত্থাপন কোরছি।

মাননীয় সভাপতি মহোদয়, যদিও গভর্ণমেন্ট জানেন যে ময়মনসিং জেলা বাংলা প্রদেশের সর্ব্বশ্রেষ্ঠ জেলা, এবং তার লোক সংখ্যা সব চেয়ে অধিক মোটের উপর ৫২ লক্ষ, এবং তার মধ্যে শতকরা ৮০টী মুসলমান আর ২০টী হিন্দু, তবু এই জিলার প্রতি গভর্ণমেন্টের ঔদাসীন্যের অন্ত নাই। বৃটিশ গভর্ণমেন্টের জীবনের প্রথম থেকেই ব্রহ্মপুত্র নদটা পশ্চিম দিকে সরে যায়, এবং সেই থেকেই ময়মনসিংহ জেলার অধোগতি আরম্ভ হয়েছে। এই ময়মনসিংহ জেলার স্বাস্থ্য ও সম্পদ অন্যান্য জেলা থেকে বেশী ছিলো। কিন্তু নদী নালাগুলো শুকিয়ে যাওয়ায় আজ ময়মনসিংহ সব চেয়ে দুর্দ্দশাগ্রস্থ। একটা জিনিষ এবারের বাজেটে দেখতে পাচ্ছি যে আমাদের অনেক চেষ্টা করার পর গভর্ণমেন্ট অনুগ্রহ কোরে ২৪,২২৬ টাকা মঞ্জুর কোরেছেন, সেচ বিভাগের কাজ করবার জন্য। কিন্তু তার মধ্যে দেখা যায়—একজন ইঞ্জিনিয়ারের জন্য ব্যয় হবে ১,২০০, টাকা। এতেই বোঝা যায় কতটুকু সেচের কাজ ময়মনসিং জেলার জন্য এই গভর্ণমেন্ট কোরতে যাচ্ছেন। আরো অনেক বেশী টাকা ময়মনসিংহ জেলার জন্য ব্যয় করা উচিত ছিলো। উক্ত জেলা থেকে যেভাবে গভর্ণমেন্ট টাকা আয় কোরে থাকেন ব্যয় করবার সময়ও সেদিকে বিশেষ লক্ষ্য রাখা তাঁদের কর্ত্তব্য। নদীগুলি হেজে মোজে যাওয়ার দরুণ ম্যালেরিয়া প্রভৃতি রোগ তো দেখা দিয়েইছে তাছাড়া flood এর দরুনও হাজার হাজার লোক মারা যাচ্ছে। ময়মনসিংহ সহরের নীচ দিয়ে যে ব্রহ্মপুত্র নদ প্রবাহিত সে শুকোতে শুকোতে একদম শুকিয়ে গেছে। জামালপুর আর টাঙ্গাইলের মধ্য দিয়া প্রবাহিত বিনই নদী শুকিয়ে যাওয়ার ফলে চার পাশের গ্রামগুলিতে ম্যালেরিয়া বৃদ্ধি হবার সঙ্গে সঙ্গে চাষ বাস ও শিল্প বাণিজ্যের বিস্তর ক্ষতি হয়েছে। লোহজং নদীর অবস্থাও তাই। গভর্ণমেন্টের সেচ বিভাগ নামে একটা বিভাগ নামে মাত্র চলে আসছে কিন্তু তার কাজের পরিচয় কিছুমাত্র দেখা যায় না। এই জেলার ব্রহ্মপুত্র, যমুনা, বিনই, লোহজং, বংশাই, কংস, কাচামাটিয়া, মগরা, সোমেশ্বরী, বালুয়া, নলসোঁদা, ধলেশ্বরী ইত্যাদি যে সমস্ত নদী জেলার ভিতর দিয়া প্রবাহিত হোয়ে জেলার সমৃদ্ধি বৃদ্ধি কোরতো এখন কিন্তু দেখা যায় পাহাড় থেকে ক্লেদ নেমে এসে সবগুলো নদীকে ভরাট কোরছে। আমি সেচ সচিব মহাশয়কে জিজ্ঞাসা করি—ময়মনসিংহের নদীগুলি দেখবার জন্য কখনো ময়মনসিংহে গিয়েছিলেন কি? ১৯৩৭ সনে যখন আমি প্রশ্ন করেছিলাম যমুনা নদীর তলদেশ ভোরে উঠার ফলেই flood হয়ে থাকে কি না, তখন মন্ত্রী মহাশয়

বোলেছিলেন যে তা নয়। তখন তাঁকে জিজ্ঞাসা কোরছিলেন মিঃ গুপ্ত অতিরিক্ত প্রশ্নে, তিনি বোলেছিলেন no, এই মতিগতি নিয়ে গভর্ণমেণ্টের সেচ বিভাগ আমাদের উপর কর্ত্তৃত্ব করে। আর প্রতি বৎসরে দেখতে পাচ্ছি পুলিশের খাতে গভর্ণমেণ্টের অর্থের কিছুমাত্র অনটন নাই আরো বেশী খরচ করা হচ্ছে। এবারে বাজেটে আর একটা জিনিষ দেখতে পাচ্ছি, সাম্প্রদায়িক বিষ ছড়াবার জন্য আজাদকে দেওয়া হয়েছে ত্রিশ হাজার টাকা। আজাদ ত্রিশ হাজার টাকা পেতে পারে আর ময়মনসিংহের সমুদায় জেলার জন্য সেচবিভাগের ব্যয়ের দরুন মাত্র ২৪ হাজার টাকা আজাদের চেয়েও ছয় হাজার টাকা কম। গভর্ণমেণ্ট কি চান যে আজাদ যে কাজ কোরবে ময়মনসিংহে তার চেয়েও কম সেচ বিভাগের কাজ হবে? সেচ বিভাগের ভালো কাজ হওয়ার দরুন যদি কিছু উপকার হয়, যদি ম্যালেরিয়া ও দুর্ভিক্ষের হাত থেকে ময়মনসিংহ জেলাবাসীরা বাঁচে তাহলে হাজার হাজার মুসলমানই বাঁচবে, শতকরা যারা ৮০ জন তারাই বাঁচবে। আমি তাই বোলতে চাই—

(Here the member, having reached the time-limit, resumed his seat.)

Mr. PROMATHA RANJAN THAKUR: I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 34,14,000 under the head "Irrigation" be reduced by Rs. 100. The object of this cut motion is to raise a discussion about the failure of the Irrigation Department to take necessary steps to re-excavate the Balugram-Tetulia Canal in the Gopalganj subdivision of the Faridpur district.

Sir, for the last 50 years, since the Madaripur Veel Route Canal has been excavated, the people of the western side of the canal have been suffering from untold misery due to the failure of crops caused by the visitation of flood every year. The Hon'ble the Minister in charge of Irrigation knows that a canal called the Balugram-Tetulia Canal takes its origin from the Kumar in the north and falls into the Madaripur Veel Route Canal. The land on both sides of the Balugram-Tetulia Canal is agricultural land and the people are mostly Namasudras and Muhammadans. During the rainy season, when the water of the Padma swells up and finds its way through the Kumar and subsequently through this Balugram-Tetulia Canal, it cannot get a very wide outlet to pass away due to the obstruction it gets from the high embankment of the Veel Route Canal. The result of this is that the crops of the land on the western side of the said Veel Route Canal are totally destroyed and thousands of people suffer from famine every year.

Sir, it is very difficult to make the situation clear without the help of a map. But I can say this much, that the western half of the Gopalganj subdivision is much lower in level than the north of Faridpur district and the lands in this area are mostly Veel lands. During the rains when the water gets into this area, it cannot pass away easily and even in the months of February and March the peasants find great difficulty to cultivate the land. Moreover, the water-hyacinth nuisance grows and the health of the people becomes affected.

Now, Sir, for the last 50 years the people of this locality have been praying to the authority for the re-excavation of this Balugram-Tetulia Canal. The attention of the District Magistrate, and the District Board of Faridpur has been drawn to it by the people times without number, but to no effect.

Some two years ago Mr. K. A. L. Hill, the District Magistrate of Faridpur, along with the Subdivisional Officer of Gopalganj visited the area affected by flood and felt the necessity of re-excavating the canal with two sluice gates, one at Balugram and the other at Tetulia, to regulate the water. A very largely attended meeting was held at my house at Orakandi and the District Magistrate told the people that he would take steps so that the Government might take immediate measures to re-excavate the canal; and for the survey and measurement work the District Magistrate asked for a sum of Rs. 3,000 to be realised from the poor people of the locality. There was some objection at first to this realisation of the money, but when the District Magistrate assured the people that he would personally see that the Government took steps to re-excavate the canal, that they agreed to pay that sum. As a matter of fact, that sum of money was paid to the District Magistrate within a short time. But up till now, Sir, we do not see any attempt on the part of the authority to re-excavate this canal. We have been thinking that the scheme has been abandoned and the poor people's three thousand rupees have been forfeited to the State.

Now, Sir, the difficulty is this. The Government has made the Irrigation Department entirely separate from the Agriculture Department. But, as a matter of fact, in Bengal, these two departments should work in co-operation so that the agriculture of the province might improve. By separating the one from the other, Government is only wasting public money and is doing nothing to improve the soil.

Secondly, Sir, the Irrigation Department tackles with big schemes only and neglects the small ones, and the consequence of such negligence is that the cultivators suffer a great deal. Because for small schemes, the Irrigation Department has to depend on the district boards which, for want of fund, cannot extend sufficient help to the locality which is in need of irrigation help.

In conclusion, Sir, I do hope the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Irrigation Department would thoroughly enquire into the matter of the re-excavation of this Balugram-Tetulia Canal and take immediate steps to save the lives of thousands of poor peasants who are suffering so terribly from flood every year.

Maulvi ABDUL JABBAR: Sir, I would like to say something about the utter indifference of Government in matters of irrigation towards the North Bengal districts. We hear of irrigation works in

different parts of Bengal, but we never hear of any irrigation scheme in North Bengal, as if North Bengal has no necessity for irrigation. We do not know the reasons why North Bengal has been totally neglected in this respect. It is only fair that all parts of the province should receive equal attention of Government in all matters. People in North Bengal do not know or feel the existence of such a department of Government as the Irrigation Department. In years of drought, there is no arrangement for irrigation in North Bengal districts, to help the agriculturists in growing their crops or to save their crops. It is, therefore, necessary that in North Bengal, irrigation works should be undertaken and the dead and dying rivers should be resuscitated.

Sir, in the district of Dinajpur, amongst others, there are some police-stations, namely, Gangarampur, Bangshihari and Itahar, where drought has been very frequent and in years of drought, the people there cannot grow paddy—their only harvest—for want of any irrigation facility. The result is that reports of consequent failure of crops leading to scarcity and acute distress of the people are often received from these quarters. Irrigation measures in these areas are urgently needed and would be of great help to the people in their cultivation which is the only means of their livelihood. I would accordingly appeal to the Hon'ble Minister to take early steps for irrigation works in those places where it is absolutely necessary.

Sir, in this connection, I would like to refer to the necessity of resuscitating the Karatoya river, which taking its rise in the Jalpaiguri district runs along the boundary line of Rangpur and Dinajpur districts. The present dead condition of the river has prejudicially affected the pople of those two districts through which it passes in matters of health and irrigation and has been the abode of water-hyacinth in many places. If the river be reclaimed, it will not only remove the insanitary condition of those places, but it would immensely help the solution of the irrigation problem of the villages through which it passes. The urgent necessity of resuscitating this dead river Karatoya was urged upon the Government, and the Irrigation Department of the Government took steps in causing a survey of the river to be made about 4 years ago by sending engineers to the locality, but I regret to say that no further action appears to have been taken in the matter since then. I would, therefore, request the Hon'ble Minister to enquire into the matter and take early steps for resuscitating the said river Karatoya. I hope the Hon'ble Minister would give us an assurance regarding the questions I have raised.

Mr. KAMALKRISHNA ROY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, সেচ বিভাগের মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় যে ব্যয় বরাদ্দের দাবি উপস্থিত কোরেছেন সেই দাবি থেকে একশত টাকা কম করবার ছাঁটাই প্রস্তাব আমি উত্থাপন কোরছি। আমার এই প্রস্তাব উত্থাপনের

কারণ, বাঁকুড়া জেলায় এই বিভাগের কাজ সম্বন্ধে আলোচনা করা। এই জেলায় যেটুকু কাজের দরকার এবং সে সম্বন্ধে যতটুকু যা হোয়েছে, তাতে সেচ বিভাগ তাদের কর্ত্তব্য তো করেই নাই, বরং সেচ বিভাগের কাজের নামে যে অকাজের সৃষ্টি হোয়েছে, সে বিষয়ে আমি আপনাদের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ কোরতে চাই। গত দুই বছর ধোরে বাংলা সরকারের বিভিন্ন বিভাগের আয় ব্যয়ের বিভিন্ন প্রকারের অক্ষমতা ও অযোগ্যতা নিয়ে যে সকল ছাঁটাই প্রস্তাব উত্থাপিত হয়েছে, সেই প্রস্তাব গুলির উপর মন্ত্রী মণ্ডলী তাঁদের দল বল নিয়ে যে রকম ভাবে No, No কোরে ভোটের জোরে তাঁদের কাজ হাসিল কোরে আসছেন, তা দেখে মনে হয় যেমন একটা মৌচাকে ঢিল ছুঁড়লে সমস্ত মৌমাছি চাকের থেকে উড়ে এসে আক্রমণকারীকে কামড় দেয় ঠিক তেম্নি মন্ত্রী মণ্ডলীর বিরুদ্ধে cut motion এর ঢিল পড়লে Coalition দল বল No, No কোরে মন্ত্রী-মৌবনে যে মধু আছে সেই মধুকে আগলে রাখবার জন্য বারবার চেষ্টা করচেন। কিন্তু এসব No, No করা সত্ত্বেও গত দুবছর ধরে House এ থেকে দেখতে পাচ্ছি যে cut motion এর ঢিল এর সংখ্যা দিন দিন বেড়ে চোলছে। এবং শুধু আমাদের পক্ষ থেকেই যে cut motion বেড়ে চোলছে তা নয়। যে দল তাঁদের পক্ষে, তাদের ভিতর থেকেও কম আসছে না। সুতরাং শুধু No, No র জোরে তাদের অক্ষমতা ঢাকা দেবার চেষ্টা বৃথা। আমি বিশেষ কিছু বোলবো না, শুধু সেচ বিভাগের কথাই বোলছি। সেচ বিভাগের কাজ সম্বন্ধে যাঁরা একটু আলোচনা কোরছেন তাঁরাই জানেন যে এই বিভাগের অযোগ্যতা ও অক্ষমতা ক্ষমার অযোগ্য। এই Irrigation Department র নাম, আমি চিন্তা কোরে দেখেছি, Irritation Department হওয়া উচিত। এই Department তাঁদের নির্দ্দিষ্ট কাজের দু'আনা কাজও করে না। মাঝখান থেকে জনসাধারণের করভার বেড়ে যায় মাত্র। বর্দ্ধমান জেলার কেনালের ব্যর্থতা সম্বন্ধে অনেক আলোচনা এই পরিষদে হোয়েছে, আমি বাঁকুড়া জেলা সম্বন্ধে কিছু বোলছি। এখানের Scheme গুলি কোটী বা ২।৪ লক্ষ টাকার নয়, মাত্র কয়েক হাজারের। ১৯২৪ সালে আমাদের জেলায় বড় বড় লাঙ্গুল ধারী, যাদের নাকি বড় বড় উপাধির জন্য Expert বলা হোয়ে থাকে, সেই রকমের ইঞ্জিনিয়ারের দল বহুবার আনাগোনা করে এবং বহু গবেষণার পর ৬০০০ বিঘা জমি চাষ করবার জন্য ১০,০০০ টাকার বরাদ্দ করে 'সালবাঁধ পরিকল্পনা' সুরু করলেন। আর একজন এরূপ Expert ইঞ্জিনিয়ার কিছু দিন পরে এসে বল্লেন ও টাকায় হবে না—বিশ হাজার টাকার Scheme করতে হবে। কাজ চলেচে, আর এক ইঞ্জিনিয়ার বোল্লেন বিশ হাজারে হবে না কম কোরে ও পঁচিশ হাজার টাকা লাগবে। আর একজন এসে পঁচিশের জায়গায় লাগালেন পঁয়তাল্লিশ হাজার তারপর সেটা বেড়ে বেড়ে ৬৪ হাজারে ঠেকেছে। ১৯২৪ থেকে ১৯৩৯ সাল এল, কিন্তু কোন সদস্য যদি দেখতে যান, দেখে আসবেন, আসলে কিন্তু কোন ব্যবস্থাই হয় নাই। জমিতে পায় না সময়ে জল, প্রজাকে জল কর কিন্তু দিতে হচ্ছে। গ্রামবাসীদের প্রথমে বুঝিয়ে দেওয়া হয়েছিল যে ১২ হাজার টাকা দিলে পর স্কীম complete হবে। ৩৬ হাজার টাকা খরচ হয়ে গেছে কিন্তু সেটা আজও complete হয় নাই। Expert ইঞ্জিনিয়ারদের ধারণা পর্য্যন্ত হয় নাই যে ঐ পরিমাণ জমি চাষ করবার জন্য জলের যে উৎসের দরকার সে উৎস কোথায়। খালি একটা স্কীম করবার জন্য বড় বড় ইঞ্জিনিয়াররা যে টাকাটা অনর্থক লাগিয়েছেন, তার জন্য Department দায়ী। এই Department এর দোষে তাদের এক একজন ইঞ্জিনিয়ারের নির্বুদ্ধিতার জন্য গরীব পল্লী-বাসীর উপর ট্যাক্সের ভার পোড়েছে। আসলে গভর্ণমেন্টের যে টাকাটা প্রকৃত খরচে জেগেছে তার সুদ কোষলে দেখা যায় যে প্রতি বিঘায় আট আনার বেশী পড়ে না। যে জমিতে জল দেবার কথা সে জমিতে জল বৃষ্টির দিনে ভিন্ন অন্য সময় মিলে না। বৃষ্টির জলেই পনর আনা চাষ হয় কিন্তু চাষীকে জলকর দিতে হয় সর্ব্বটার জন্য। তাই বোলছি সরকারের আর সব Department এর তুলনায় এই Irrigation Department এর অযোগ্যতা সব চেয়ে বেশী।

Mr. M. FARHAD RAZA CHOWDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I like to participate in a discussion about failure of Government to draw up schemes for irrigation of unfertile lands. I draw the attention of Government pointedly to a few facts regarding a question which is of vital concern to a vast population of agriculturists. The Irrigation Department is one of the nation-building departments of Government and as such in these days of autonomous rule in Bengal, we expect the Government of the day to launch into schemes which would improve the fertility of land and thus help the prime and major industry of the country. As ours is essentially an agricultural country, the well-being of the people depends solely on the product of the soil. Even in our province conditions vary from district to district. West Bengal suffers from scarcity of water and East Bengal abounds in it. There are large tracts of land which are lying unproductive and unfertile for want of proper water-supply. There are also large tracts of *bil* areas which suffer from abundance of it. Several reasons may be ascribed to the prevalence of these conditions. Chief amongst them is the unscientific and, I should say, unsympathetic construction of railway embankments, bridges and culverts. Railways in India in order to minimise cost of construction have blocked the natural drainage system of the country which has led to an obstruction to the free irrigation of the countryside with the result that vast tracts of land get water-logged.

Now, Sir, when such is the condition, it is up to the Government to come forward with a definite scheme to remedy as far as practicable the ravages caused partly by the railway authorities and partly by the rise in the level of beds of rivers.

I would like to suggest to Government the creation of a departmental machinery which could profitably take up the question of irrigation of tracts of land lying barren and semi-barren due to scarcity of water. This could be done by the boring of shallow but wide bore tube-wells which could serve a fairly big area by means of pipe and mechanically operated pumps. I do not intend to bore the house with the details and technicalities of this scheme, but if the Hon'ble Minister desires I could discuss the question with him and give him facts and figures which might be of some use to him and his department in the framing up of small projects of this nature for each and every district in the province. Some initial expenditure would be necessary, but the recurring cost might be met by the nominal and small charges that could be levied for the supply of water to the agriculturists who certainly would find it profitable to pay for this in order to bring in fallow lands under cultivation or in order to increase the productivity and fertility of their lands. Sir, in the artificially cooled and humid atmosphere of this Chamber we are apt to forget the extremely miserable condition of the bulk of the populace who have sent us as their representatives for the sole purpose of ameliorating

their condition. And the Hon'ble Ministers sitting in upholstered arm-chairs in the spacious rooms of the Secretariat must not forget that the people—the half-clad disease-stricken people—whose representatives they are cannot even have two square meals a day! Before they think of construction of buildings for their highly salaried officers or of princely grants to educational institutions and subsidies to newspapers, they must provide "*dal bhat*" to the teeming millions of our hungry populace. The problem of irrigation is the problem of bread and butter of the people of this land. Unless and until this problem is solved no Government worth its name can think of any others. For if they do, it would be nothing short of criminal negligence on their part.

Mr. S. A. GOMES: I rise to say a few words on this demand of the Minister for Irrigation. I do not recommend a reduction, but I would, if possible, raise the amount asked, although he gave very scant mention of Dacca in his lengthy opening speech.

It is a pity that the Minister for Irrigation seems to be the worst supplied with funds for works in his control.

I am not acquainted with the geographical or physical position of the many navigable rivers and streams of Bengal, but I have some idea of the river Ichamati.

Unfortunately, there are many streams in Bengal called Ichamati. The Ichamati I am referring to is a branch of the great Padma, starting near about the steamer ghat Moinat in the district of Dacca, serving the villages within the jurisdiction of thana Nababganj. It is about 25 miles long. From the Padma it flows into the Dhaleswari. During the period of the monsoon—May to October—the Ichamati is a respectable river having a large supply of water from start to finish, but in the dry season—November to April, particularly December to March—the bed of this Ichamati dries up in several places causing dislocation of trade and brings sufferings to the inhabitants of the villages situated on its banks.

The carriage of goods by country boats is stopped, and small traders have to engage coolies or horses to take their wares to the *hâts* that have been established along the banks.

A mass meeting of Christians, Hindus and Muhammadans was held at Hashnabad on 8th March 1937 under the presidency of the missionary in charge of the village, where it was resolved to petition the Minister for Irrigation and Ways and Communications to remove the grievances of the thousands of people who suffer very badly physically and financially by this Ichamati drying up for four or five months in the year.

The petition was forwarded to the Minister in March 1937, but up to date nothing has been done to give relief to the thousands of sufferers.

Mr. Speaker, with your permission I shall quote a few passages from the said memorial. Honourable members shall be able to realise the plight of these people better than my poor words can express. The petition says:—

"Prior to 1925, with the exception of that part which lies between the Padma and Hashnabad (about five miles) the river was navigable throughout the year. Since then, owing to the accumulation of silt, it has become impassable for country boats at no less than 16 different places during the dry season.

Once a source of manifold blessings, the silting up of its bed has not only caused it to lose much of its former utility, but it has become a real menace to the health and happiness of the thousands living on its banks as the following facts will show:—

(1) That for over six months in the year its water due to stagnation is not fit for drinking and for about three months for washing purposes, which undoubtedly is one of the principal causes of repeated outbreaks of cholera and other epidemics in this part of the Dacca district.

(2) That communication by boat over this river to Dacca town, which is the cheapest and quickest, is suspended for over six months in the year. Consequently business men, litigants and others who have to go to Dacca town are compelled either to cover the distance, some 20 or 25 miles, on foot or to adopt the four times more expensive and roundabout steamer route *via* Padma and Naraingunge. Several commodities, chiefly sugar, oil, spices, etc., have to be imported from the town, but during the dry period when river transport is brought to a standstill, the prices of these essential foodstuffs rise considerably only to intensify the poverty of the agricultural population.

(3) That hundreds of boats laden with paddy, timber, etc., from Tippera and Assam, which always find a ready market in this part of the Dacca district are held up at the confluence of the Ichamati and the Dhaleswari, as a result of which we, with a population of about a lakh, served by 14 weekly *hâts* and 16 daily *bazars*, are made to suffer intensely in being thus cut off from the main source of supplies."

I wish to draw the particular attention of the Minister to this matter. It is high time that the Minister did something to show that he was interested in the welfare of the people of this particular locality.

I, as one of their representatives in this House, call upon the Minister to take immediate steps to keep this Ichamati navigable all the year round.

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Babu PREMHARI BARMA:. Sir, I support the cut motion moved by Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal. I must say that the Irrigation Department is the most worthless of all the departments of the Government. The money spent on this department is a mere waste. Those who are in charge of the department have not been able to draw up any scheme whatever for undertaking a comprehensive scheme for irrigation works in Bengal. I don't know what the fat-salaried men of this department are doing. The only activity that we see of this department is the activity of maintaining the Damodar Canal and another one or two canals of West Bengal. The department ought to remember that besides West Bengal, there are other parts of Bengal, and irrigation works are as much necessary in other parts of Bengal as they are necessary in West Bengal. We the people of North Bengal cannot feel that there exists an Irrigation Department of the Government of Bengal because in North Bengal, the activities of the Irrigation Department are nil. The people of North Bengal mainly depend on rain water for their cultivation. If there be no rains in time, then the cultivation in North Bengal totally fails. The fat-salaried men of this department ought to remember that the people of North Bengal have as much claim upon their services as the people of other parts of Bengal. Sir, up till now North Bengal has been totally ignored by this department. The rivers of North Bengal have silted up, and there is no attempt whatsoever to resuscitate the dead and dying rivers of North Bengal. The rivers of North Bengal having been silted up the fertility of the soil of North Bengal as well as the health of the people of North Bengal deteriorated very much and the people of North Bengal have been suffering from malaria, kala-azar and other fell diseases. If the dead and dying rivers of North Bengal are resuscitated, then certainly the causes of malaria and other diseases will be removed and the people of North Bengal will get back both health and fertility of the soil. Sir, it is a pity that Government kept the North Bengal scheme under the Bengal Development Act in the safe custody of the Bengal Secretariat. We do not hear of this scheme, and we do not know whether the Government will at all give effect to this North Bengal scheme. If the Government find it difficult to give effect to this scheme, then Government ought to take up other easy irrigation works for North Bengal, as for example by sinking tube-wells or excavating old tanks, by embankments to small rivers and small water-channels and also, where necessary, to do drainage works. Sir, there are many water-logged

places in the district of Dinajpur, and if the water-logged places are drained out, the people of these places are certainly saved as in that case these water-logged areas can be easily cultivated.

Again, Sir, vast areas in the district of Dinajpur require protection from the floods of the neighbouring rivers. During the rainy season floods from these rivers destroy the crops of these places. Sir, crops of many thousands of acres of land in police-stations Kotwali and Gangarampur in the district of Dinajpur are almost annually destroyed by the inundation of the river Punarbhaba. If Government construct *bunds* to the banks of the river Punarbhaba, then the people of those places are saved from the inundation of the river. Sir, Government is certainly neglecting its duty in not taking up irrigation works in any part of North Bengal, and I hope the Hon'ble Minister will see that irrigation works are taken up in North Bengal as well.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 34,14,000 for expenditure under the head "Irrigation" be reduced by Rs. 100, to raise a discussion on the policy in not taking a comprehensive scheme—

(*a*) regarding resuscitating the dead and dying rivers of the province of Bengal;

(*b*) regarding the existing public embankments with a view to prevent the breaches therein.

I know, Sir, the water problems in Bengal are complex in the extreme. The work of the Irrigation Department is vast. It mainly deals with (*a*) irrigation proper, (*b*) care and maintenance of embankments, (*c*) improvement of water-logged areas, (*d*) resuscitation of the dead and dying rivers, (*e*) maintenance of navigable waterways. Little irrigation work that has been done is entirely confined to Western Bengal districts. It is generally believed that in Eastern Bengal irrigation work is not necessary, as there is fairly copious rainfall in Eastern Bengal districts. But of late there is a large area in Eastern Bengal districts where the *aman* paddy used to grow; it is now destroyed by flood and water-hyacinth and after the rain has subsided *boro* crop cannot be grown for want of water and if a minor irrigation work be undertaken in that locality *boro* crop can easily be grown. Such tract remains fallow in the northern portion of our district. If the Government make a survey of that locality and if the Government be prepared to help the district board, it can undertake such minor work. I draw the attention of the Government to the immediate necessity of such schemes and of putting them into action.

Next I come to the care and maintenance of embankments. I know, Sir, the problem is serious and difficult. In this matter too the little work, if any, which has been done, has been confined to the Western

Bengal districts. Some 1,500 miles of embankments are in charge of the department. It is useless to discuss that these works are beneficial, or the rivers. I am not prepared to believe that a reasonably satisfactory solution is beyond the powers of modern engineering skill. The only embankment in East Bengal, viz., the Gumti Embankment in the district of Tippera, has been totally neglected. The annual havoc is not less serious than that created by breaches in the Damodar Embankment. It has been doing its havoc more than a century and nowadays its breaches are annual, causing destruction of crops of a large tract of land. This year's estimate of loss of crop according to the Government is 80,000. The Government estimate is confined to the area protected by the Government Embankment, but there is an area which is not protected either by the Government or by the Tippera Raj. This area, before the Government declared the Gumti Embankment as public, used to be maintained by the Tippera Raj. To crown all, though the embankment is not maintained by the Government, the talukdars of this area pay the ambankment tax as included in the benefited area. There have been annual breaches in that locality for the last 20 years, and the breaches are not repaired by the Government. Even now there are two breaches, one near Baherchar and the other near Mithilapur in police-station Burichang, which have not as yet been filled up. I pray that the Government be pleased to take up the maintenance of that portion of the embankment pending the permanent solution of the problem. I hope my appeal will not go in vain. I want a definite answer from the Hon'ble Minister. I was told by the Hon'ble Minister last year that the Government had decided to open up an escape for discharge of surplus water, but it appears this has been shelved. We know not how long this will remain under the consideration of Government. The people are crying, but their cries do not touch the stony heart of the so-called responsible Ministers of this province.

Next comes drainage, including the resuscitation of the dead and dying rivers of Bengal. The problem requires immediate and urgent attention of the Government. It cannot be delayed. Central Bengal is already decadent; it is highly malarious; the population is steadily decreasing; the land is going out of cultivation. In Eastern Bengal, too, the rivers are dying. The river Buriganga near Dacca is almost dead. Brahmaputra near Mymensingh is dead, and the district of Mymensingh has been highly malarious. In the district of Tippera, the river Titas—the only main source of the Brahmanbaria subdivision—is almost dead. In the districts of Tippera and Noakhali, the river Dakhatia, which is a main source of drainage, falls into the river Meghna in the western part of Noakhali. The mouth of the river Dakhatia has been almost silted up and in consequence the drainage of surplus water has been stopped causing flood in a large area of Raipura, Ramganj and Lakshmipur thanas in the district of Noakhali. Unless this mouth is opened, the flood will be annual.

Next comes the maintenance of the navigable rivers. In the year 1930, an Irrigation Department Committee was constituted by the Government. It submitted its report. It made certain valuable suggestions regarding the organisation of the department and its immediate need for development. In accordance with its recommendations, the Government passed the Bengal Waterways Act, 1934, with a view to remove the maintenance of the navigable waterways of Bengal from the sphere of the Irrigation Department. I do not know what the Government propose to do with regard to the proposed independent Board of Trust to deal with the maintenance of navigable rivers. Already they have begun to decay. The river Meghna has shown signs of decay and the Assam-Bengal Railway Bridge over the river Meghna near Bhairab and Ashuganj will, I am afraid, add to the causes of the decay. Another way in which it is maintained has given just cause for an anxiety and the proposed expert advice in the matter should not be delayed.

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit, resumed his seat.)

Khan Bahadur Maulana AHMED ALI ENAYETPURI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, বহুদিনের বহু আশার পর আজ যে দুটো কথা বলবার অবকাশ পেয়েছি এজন্য আপনার নিকট কৃতজ্ঞতা প্রকাশ করবার সুযোগটুকু নষ্ট করতে চাই না।

Sir, বাংলা গভর্ণমেন্টের পূর্ত্ত বিভাগের ব্যয় বরাদ্দ করতে হবে আজ মাত্র ৩৪,১৪,০০০ টাকা। বাংলাদেশের প্রত্যেক জেলার বিভিন্ন স্থানে বহুবার যা'বার সুযোগ আমার হোয়েছে। তা'তে যা দেখেছি এবং নিশ্চয় করে জেনেছি, সেই তিক্ত অভিজ্ঞতা নিয়ে আমি জোর গলায় বলতে পারি যে, নদী বহুল বিশাল বাংলা দেশের পূর্ত্ত কার্য্যের জন্য মাত্র ৩৪ লক্ষ টাকা নিতান্ত অল্প এবং ইহা প্রয়োজনের তুলনায় খুবই সামান্য। Sir, Irrigation এর এই ৩৪ লক্ষ টাকার মধ্যে কর্ম্মচারীর বেতন, তাদের T. A., D. A., অফিস সরঞ্জাম, কনট্রাকটরের লাভ ইত্যাদি বাদে যে কয়টি টাকার মাটি কাটা বা ঐরূপ আর কিছু হয় তো এই বিশাল প্রদেশের পক্ষে মোটেই যথোপযুক্ত নয়। Sir, বাংলার আজ সব চেয়ে বড় সমস্যা হচ্ছে অন্নসমস্যা। বাংলাদেশের শতকরা ৯০ জন কৃষি জীবি। কিন্তু তাদের কৃষিজাত শস্যাদি বছরের পর বছর ডুবে যায়, নষ্ট হোয়ে যায় এবং তাহারই অবশ্যম্ভাবী বিষময় ফলে বাংলার "হা অন্ন" রব থামে না। বাংলার ১৫টি জেলার উপর দিয়ে গত বছর বন্যা প্লাবনের যে ভীষণ রুদ্র তান্ডব চলে গিয়েছে এবং যার ফলে লক্ষ লক্ষ লোক আজও ক্ষুধার জ্বালায় দিশেহারা হোয়ে বেড়াচ্ছে, যাদের সাহায্য করতে গিয়ে আমাদের সহৃদয় গভর্ণমেন্ট ৫০ লক্ষ টাকার উপর খরচ কোরে ফেলেছেন; কিন্তু তাতেও তাদের অভাব পূর্ণভাবে মেটাতে পারা যায় নি। সে কি এই পূর্ত্ত বিভাগের অমনোযোগিতার জন্য নয়? বাংলার নদীগুলি যদি প্রবাহমান থাকতো, প্রয়োজনীয় স্থানে যদি ছোট বড় খাল কাটান থাকতো, বন্যা ও প্লাবনের জল নিষ্কাশন এবং ডাঙ্গা জমিতে জল সেচনের যদি সুব্যবস্থা হ'তো, নদীগুলি বন্যা ও অতিবৃষ্টিতে উপচিয়ে যেয়ে যাহাতে ফসল নষ্ট না করতে পারে তার জন্য যদি স্থানে স্থানে বাঁধ দেওয়া হতো, তবে এরূপভাবে বঙ্গ কৃষকের মাথার ঘাম পায়ে ফেলে উৎপন্ন করা ফসলগুলি প্রায় রাতারাতি ডুবে গিয়ে দেশের দারুণ দুরবস্থাকে ক্রমাগত বাড়িয়ে দিতে পারতো না। আমাদের গভর্ণমেন্ট বন্যাপ্রপীড়িত লোকদের সাহায্য করতে লাখ লাখ টাকা ব্যয় করেন; ভাল কথা। কিন্তু যাহাতে বন্যার অপ্রতিহত আক্রমণ থেকে দেশোদ্ধার করা যায়, সেদিকে উপযুক্ত অর্থ ব্যয় করতে বড়ই কৃপণতা করেন। পূর্ব্বেই বোলেছি, এই বিভাগে যে কয়টি টাকার প্রকৃত কাজ

হয় এবং তা' যেরূপভাবে সকলকে খুসী করতে চেয়ে এখানে সেখানে ছিটে ফোঁটা করে ছড়াইয়া দেওয়া হয়, তাতে কাজের চেয়ে অকাজ বড় কম হয় না। অর্থাৎ এক বছরে যে সামান্য কাটা হয়, আসছে বছর আসতে আসতে তা প্রায় ভরাট হয়ে যায়। কিছুদিন পরে সেখানে অর্থাৎ যেখানে কাগজে কলমে হাজার হাজার টাকা ব্যয় করা হয়েছে সেখানে সামান্য খালের ক্ষীণ স্মৃতি ছোটকু ব্যতীত আর কিছুই দেখিতে পাওয়া যায় না। যশোহর এবং নদীয়া জেলার পূর্ব বিভাগের অন্যতম শ্রেষ্ঠ কাজ Ghuznavi cut ও Bijay cut। কিন্তু এই দুটি কাট দ্বারা যে অল্প উপকার হোয়েছিল, সংস্কার অভাবে এখন উহা অনেকটা অপকারে পরিণত হ'তে চলেছে। এই দুটির গোড়া যেখানে, সেখানে ভালরূপ কাটা হয় নাই। এবং উক্ত cut দ্বারা প্রবাহিত জলরাশি বাহির হইয়া যাওয়ার সুব্যবস্থা করা হয় নাই বলিয়া গত বন্যার ন্যায় ভীষণ প্লাবনে পড়িয়া নদীয়া, যশোহর, খুলনা ও ২৪-পরগণার মহা সর্বনাশ সাধিত হইয়াছে। সুতরাং নবগঙ্গা, মাথাভাঙ্গায় cut দ্বয়ের উৎপত্তি স্থান dredger দ্বারা সংস্কৃত হওয়া আশু প্রয়োজন। যশোহর জেলার কুমার, নবগঙ্গা, চিত্রা, ভৈরব, বেগবতী, কপোতাক্ষী, ইছামতি, বেতনা, নদীগুলি প্রবাহিত না থাকায় বন্যার প্রকোপ উত্তরোত্তর বাড়িয়াই চলিয়াছে এবং দেশের কৃষি স্বাস্থ্য ক্রমাগত নষ্ট হইতেছে। কুমার নদ, যশোহর জেলার নদী সম্পদের মধ্যে অন্যতম শ্রেষ্ঠ কিন্তু সংস্কার অভাবে উহা নিমজ্জমান হইয়া আসিতেছে। শৈলকূপ থানার গাড়াগঞ্জের নিকটে যেখানে কালী নদী আসিয়া কুমারের সহিত মিশিয়াছে, এইখানে dredger দ্বারা একটু কাটাইয়া দিলে মরনোন্মুখ নদীটির জীবন রক্ষা হইতে পারে। ই, বি, আরের গোয়ালন্দ লাইনে গড়ই নদীর উপর যে bridge টি আছে, নদীর bed এর তুলনায় উহা নিতান্ত অপরিসর হওয়ায় কুমার ও নবগঙ্গার ভীষণ ক্ষতি হইতেছে। এই bridge টি অতি শীঘ্র ভাল হওয়া দরকার। Sir, আমাদের বর্তমান গভর্ণমেন্ট যশোহর জেলায় ভৈরব সংস্কার Scheme এর কার্য্য আরম্ভ করিয়াছেন। ইহার জন্য যশোহরবাসী একান্তই কৃতজ্ঞ। গত ২১শে জানুয়ারী Irrigation এর ভারপ্রাপ্ত মন্ত্রী মাননীয় মহারাজা শ্রীশচন্দ্র নন্দি মহাশয় যশোহর জেলার কতোয়ালী থানার ১নং ইউনিয়ন হৈবৎপুরে যাইয়া উহার খনন কার্য্য করিয়া আসিয়াছেন। সেই সঙ্গে তিনি ইহাও স্পষ্টভাবে দেখিয়া আসিয়াছেন যে ভৈরব সংস্কার কত আশু প্রয়োজনীয়। এবং উহা লোকে কিরূপ আগ্রহ সহকারে চায়। হাজার হাজার লোক মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহোদয়ের নিকট হৃদয়ের গভীর ব্যথা ও অনাবিল শ্রদ্ধা জানিয়েছিল। কিন্তু Sir, তারপর খাল খনন কাজ যেরূপ মন্থর গতিতে অগ্রসর হোচ্ছে, তা'তে আশার স্থলে নিরাশার আমদানি হচ্ছে বেশী। সেখানে নাকি contractor দের হাজারকরা ৩।০ টাকা রেট ঠিক করা আছে এবং তারা কুলিদিগকে দিচ্ছেন মাত্র ২॥০ টাকা। এই অল্প দামে কুলিদের পোষায় না বলে তারা দলে দলে কাজ ছেড়ে চলে যাচ্ছে। আমি নিজে জেলা ম্যাজিষ্ট্রেট, P. W. D. Assistant Engineer প্রভৃতিসহ খাল কাটার স্থানে কয়েকবার দেখে এসেছি, অল্পদামের জন্য যেভাবে কুলি পাওয়ার অভাব হোচ্ছে, তাতে এই হইবে বর্ষা আসিয়া যাইবে, অথচ পরিকল্পিত স্থানটুকুও ভালভাবে কাটা হইবে না। তারপরে Sir, হৈবৎপুরের যে স্থানে এই খাল ক্রমে ভৈরব নদীতে পড়িবে উহার up এ অর্থাৎ ভৈরব নদীর উত্তরাংশের সংস্কারের কোন ব্যবস্থা করা হয় নাই। অথচ সদর ও ঝিনাইদহ মহকুমার বহু স্থান ইহার জন্য ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত হইতেছে। ভৈরব নদীর এই অংশ সংস্কৃত হইলে ভৈরব সংস্কারের কার্য্যে যথেষ্ট সাহায্য হইত।

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit, resumed his seat.)

The Assembly was then adjourned for 15 minutes.

(*After adjournment.*)

Mr. MANORANJAN BANNERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to move my cut motion, viz., that the demand of Rs. 34,14,000 under the head "Irrigation" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the river problems of Bengal.

Sir, the river problem of Western Bengal has already become hopeless, and the same will be the case in East Bengal unless steps are taken immediately. The Dacca District Board prepared some schemes for the re-excavation of rivers Ichhamati and Brahmaputra, and for the improvement of Damra Khal and Karnapura Khal long ago. Those schemes were submitted to Government in due course and Government admitted the urgency of improvement of those rivers.

Sir, a few years back, the rivers Ichhamati and Brahmaputra were flowing rivers, but now during the winter these rivers are wholly dried up. The Ichhamati is gradually being silted up and is no longer navigable except during the rains. River Bethna flows into the Dhaleswari through Kaliganga, and if a part of its water is diverted to Ichhamati, then the latter river will be much improved. A few years back, the Assam-Bengal Railway construsted a bridge over the Brahmaputra near Jinadi Station, providing a waterway of about 20 feet only. The river is about 150 feet in breadth, and this bridge should be reconstructed and the waterway should be at least 100 feet. Recently, Sir, representations signed by 50,000 agriculturists, traders, and peasants have been submitted to Government. The condition of the people residing on the banks of these rivers has become so miserable that they went to the length of stating in their representation that the inhabitants of this locality were prepared to bear a part of the cost of re-excavation of these rivers.

Sir, East Bengal was so long free from malaria and other diseases, but now, on account of the pitiable condition of these rivers, and on account of the drying up of rivers Ichhamati and Brahmaputra, malaria is gradually entering into the villages of East Bengal where there was no malaria before, and a very large number of people are dying of malaria.

There is a *bil* known as Arial Bil, which was formerly a vast tract of land on which paddy was grown. The area of the *bil* is 120 square miles, and there are some 6,000 acres of land lying waste which can be developed as paddy land, and a very large quantity of paddy can be grown there. There was a *khal* through this *bil* connecting the Padma with the river Ichhamati. That *khal* has now been dried up and, on account of that, the land of the *bil* remains fallow.

Sir, I would draw the attention of Government to the fact that unless the river problem of East Bengal is solved now, it will be difficult to do anything afterwards. The condition of the rivers is such that if Government propose to commence the re-excavation of these rivers now, they can accomplish it with less expenditure than if they postpone it for a future occasion.

(At this stage the member, having reached the time-limit, resumed his seat.)

Mr. UPENDRANATH EDBAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not going to move or support any cut motion, but I want to make some observations as regards the river problems of Bengal.

Sir, Eastern Bengal was formerly noted for its rivers, but now it has begun to lose that reputation.

It is an undeniable fact that the rivers of Bengal are going to be silted up at no distant future. Along with the silting of the rivers, most of the *khals* and *bils* are also being silted up, with the result that crops, etc., are destroyed by floods and inundation. So, Sir, I would appeal to the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Irrigation Department to draw up a comprehensive scheme containing measures for the excavation of the rivers of Bengal, particularly of Eastern Bengal. Sir, I beg to bring one fact to the notice of the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Irrigation, that there is a river named Damodar passing by the side of the Pirojpur subdivisional headquarters. This fact is very well known to the Government, but the river is almost silted up and river communication has almost stopped, and thereby the people of the locality have been put to great hardship. So I appeal to Government to make necessary arrangements, so that in the near future they may excavate the river and make river communication possible for the people of the locality. Unless it is excavated in the near future, I feel that the people of the locality, whom I represent here, will suffer great hardships. We find that Government are putting forward various schemes for irrigation, but generally we do not find any comprehensive scheme made by Government. So, I hope, when this Government have taken charge of administration of this province, we may expect that under this new Constitution this thing will be done very soon by the department. If it is not done, then what is the good of supporting the present Cabinet? They always say that they always act according to our instructions, but we find that they scarcely pay heed to our request. I hope that in the near future, the Government will tackle the problem as efficiently as possible, and remove the grievances of the people of the locality. With these few words, Sir, I resume my seat.

Mr. ABDUR RASCHID MAHMOOD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, with the dying rivers of Bengal and the impoverished condition of the peasantry, the problem of irrigation has always been a vexed one for the Government as well as the people. A look at the map of Bengal will show the drainage system of the country and the sources of natural irrigation, and a layman without his expert eyes wonders at the network of railroad and highway embankments across the watersheds and its after-effects on not only agriculture but also public health and sanitation. True that to be called civilised, we have to have our railways and our raised roads. But considering the nature and flatness of the topography of the country one simply views with alarm these

methods of modern traffic facilities with far-reaching adverse results on the economic condition of the country. Projects have been taken up and brought into use from the point of view of a business concern, and engineers have racked their brains to find the financial justification of their projects. Barely a century has passed before we are faced with grave issues of the blessings of science and civilisation.

Whether the problem is irrigation or drainage or both, we leave it to our engineers to see, but common-sense observation reveals that the nature of our land has been seriously interfered with by the framework of high embankments for the railways and the highways. Natural waterways have been throttled under bridges of insufficient span; embankments on flat country across the natural slope have caused a world of damage to the nation. Partly or wholly we can blame for the destructive effects not only on agriculture and public health, but also on the finances of the Government, these unwise schemes for the sanction and execution of which we cannot but blame the Government also. It is time that we seriously took up the restoration of nature and nature's ways in this country By this I certainly don't mean that the railroads and highways should be levelled down to the plain ground overnight. Probably the time for preventive measure is over. Our experts must now find cure for what they are responsible. The problem for North Bengal and some of the districts of East Bengal is generally to find ways for quick discharge of flood water and draining the low-lying areas, whereas the problem for most of the districts of West Bengal is irrigation. We should have been very happy to find on the table major schemes to deal with the particular problem of a particular area in a systematic way. Efforts made in the past by the Government have been only sporadic.

The district of Pabna lying between the arms of the Padma and the Jamuna and finding way for drainage for the whole of North Bengal with expensive depressions such as, Chalan *bil* and other *bils*, presents a problem peculiar of its own. The Jamuna within the last 30 years has encroached on the district by leaps and bounds, throwing the bank level in the interior of the district and thus subjecting the neighbourhood to premature inundation by the overwhelming inrush of spill water, thereby devastating hundreds and thousands of acres of land with growing crops The dying rivers Hurasagar, Fuljore, Baral and Ichhamati and the vast *bils* with their raised silted-up beds and the consequent loss of their holding power can no longer find a sufficient drainage system for not only this district but for the whole of North Bengal. Of late years the Padma has also encroached on this district at the borders of Rajshahi, throwing a good deal of discharge of flood water within the interior of this district, causing abnormal flood in the areas in front of the sweep. During the flood times we realise the extent of harm that the Sara-Sirajganj line is doing us. The Government may direct their engineers to study the

peculiar problems of this district and let us feel happy with the hope that something will soon be set in motion with a view to improving the condition of the dying rivers and give them life.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 34,14,000 under the head "XVII—Irrigation" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the failure of the Government to solve the problem of resuscitating the dead and dying rivers of Central Bengal with special reference to its indifference to re-excavate and revive the river Jamuna and Bager Khal in the districts of the 24-Parganas, Nadia and Jessore.

Sir, I am not going to move the next motion that stands in my name in view of the recent reply given by the Government in answer to a question that was put to the Hon'ble Minister lately, saying that the matter was under the consideration of Government.

Now, Sir, as regards the first part of my motion, namely, the failure of the Government to solve the problem of resuscitating the dead and dying rivers of Central Bengal, I think I need not dilate on that point after the very elaborate way in which this question has been dealt with by Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal. I shall confine myself in particular to the question of the indifference of the Government to re-excavate and revive the river Jamuna and Bager khal in the districts of the 24-Parganas, Nadia and Jessore. Sir, this part of the motion, at any rate, does not pretend to raise any province-wide question or any question of baffling complexity. Yet, I maintain it is a very important question affecting, as it does, the lives and well-being of thousands and thousands of people belonging to the three districts of Nadia, Jessore and the 24-Parganas. At the same time, it is an important question, having regard to the fact that this dying river has been responsible for the deterioration and decadence of more than 3 lakhs of acres of land lying on both sides of it. It is also a very urgent question having regard to the fact that it is engaging the attention of the Government, unsuccessfully though, for more than three decades. Before I pass on to the history of this question, which is a history of abortive schemes, though the last of them was promoted by the then head of the province, I would like to refer to the actual problem that is involved in it. Sir, tradition has it that the river Jamuna, the Saraswati and the Ganges mingled their waters in Allahabad and continued their downward journey for hundreds of miles just to part with one another at Tribeni in Bengal. Thenceforward the Saraswati marched westward and the Jamuna after piercing the eastern bank of the Bhagirathi at Madanpur in Nadia proceeded for 40 miles only to merge with the Ichhamati at Tibi in the 24-Parganas. Now, Sir, this is the portion of the river Jamuna that is not only dying but is almost dead and in its moribund condition disseminating disease and death among the large number of people

inhabiting both the banks of the river. The fact is that the old connection of the Jamuna with the Bhagirathi ceased to exist long ago when the Madanpur link was silted up and snapped; but that did not mean that the Jamuna suffered death because a new channel named Bager khal continued to supply the head waters of the river from the Bhagirathi. The second and the greater stroke of misfortune however befell the river when the Eastern Bengal Railway bridge at Kanchrapara was constructed, strangling Bager khal to death and tolling the death knell of the river Jamuna. Since then the Jamuna has been lying low like a consumptive patient, dealing death to thousands and thousands of people and bringing about the decadence of more than three lakhs of acres of land as I have already said.

(At this stage the member having reached his time-limit, resumed his seat.)

Mr. ISWAR CHANDRA MAL: সভাপতি মহাশয়, বাংলার সেচ বিভাগের মন্ত্রীমহাশয়ের ৩৪,১৪,০০০ টাকার খরচের দাবি হইতে ১০০ টাকার ছাঁটাই প্রস্তাব আমি উপস্থাপিত করিতেছি। তার কারণ কেলেঘাই নদীর বন্যা প্রতিকারের যে scheme গভর্ণমেন্ট কোরেছেন তার জন্য বন্যাবিধ্বস্ত ব্যক্তিগণকে ১৭,২০০ টাকা দেওয়ার ব্যবস্থা হোয়েছে। উহা অত্যন্ত অন্যায়, অসমীচীন। বন্যাপীড়িত লক্ষ লক্ষ দেশবাসীর পক্ষে আমি আমার দাবি উপস্থিত কোরছি। কেলেঘাই নদীর বন্যার খবর এদেশের বহুলোকে শুনেছেন। ঐ নদীর কূলে ২৩ ফুট উঁচু বাঁধ থাকা সত্ত্বেও ১৯১৩, ১৯২৬ এবং ১৯৩৩ সালের বন্যার প্রকোপে ঐ ২৩ ফুট উঁচু বাঁধ ভেঙ্গে জল প্রবলবেগে বেরিয়ে এসে আশে পাশের লোকের ক্ষেতের ফসল নষ্ট তো করেইছে অধিকন্তু লোকের বাস্তুভিটি পর্য্যন্ত বিধ্বস্ত কোরে দিয়েছে। বন্যার ফলে লোকের অবস্থা এতদূর শোচনীয় হোয়ে পড়েছিলো যে গভর্ণমেন্ট থেকে বন্যাপীড়িতদের সাহায্যের জন্য বহু টাকা ডোল দেওয়া হয়েছিলো। সেই বন্যাবিধ্বস্ত অঞ্চলের লোকদের স্থায়ী উপকার সাধনের জন্য তদানীন্তন চীফ ইঞ্জিনিয়ার মিঃ Addams Williams কেলেঘাইর উন্নতিকল্পে ৫৭ লক্ষ টাকার একটা স্কীম তৈরী কোরে গভর্ণমেন্টের নিকট দাখিল কোরেছিলেন। ঐ স্কীমটা তৈয়ারী করিতে ৬৬ হাজার টাকা খরচ হয়েছিল। তিনি ৪ বার ঐ অঞ্চল পরিদর্শনের জন্যও বহু টাকা ব্যয় করেছেন,—কিন্তু স্কীমটা অবশেষে পরিত্যক্ত হইয়াছে।

বর্ত্তমান স্কীম সম্বন্ধে সুপারিন্টেণ্ডিং ইঞ্জিনিয়ার গভর্ণমেন্টের নিকট তাঁহার ১৯৩৭ সালের ১৭ই তারিখের ৬৮৭৫সি. আই, লিখেছিলেন—যে,

In letter No. 6875 C.I., dated Calcutta, the 17th December, 1937, Mr. T. A. Curry, Chief Engineer to the Government of Bengal, wrote to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal:—

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"The work of widening the bed of the river Kaliaghye by removing *chak bunds* and Bastu land within 500 feet on both sides of the river Kaliaghye from Langolkota to Sewlipur at an estimated cost of Rs. 85,931 may be approved..... If the local cost is Rs. 85,931, say, Rs. 86,000, the local people may be asked to contribute Rs. 17,200 and Government may pay the balance, viz., Rs. 68,800."

১৯২৬ সনের পর, আবার যখন কেলেঘাইতে ১৯৩৩ সনে বন্যা এসে বাঁধ ভেঙ্গে ফেলে, তখনো গভর্ণমেন্ট তাদের এই Expert opinion অনুযায়ী কিছু করেন নাই। ১৯৩৩-৩৭ সাল পর্য্যন্ত মেদিনীপুরের প্রজাসাধারণের দুঃখ চরমে উঠেছিলো। এত অল্পসময়ে সব কথা আলোচনা করা অসম্ভব। মন্ত্রীমহাশয় ৬৮ হাজার টাকা এবারকার বাজেটে, তপশীলভুক্ত করে দিয়েছেন বটে কিন্তু মাত্র ৫ হাজার টাকা খরচ করিবার বরাদ্দ কোরবেন। যে দেশের যে অঞ্চলের লোক বন্যায় তিন তিন বার কোরে বিধ্বস্ত হোয়েছে সেখানকার লোকেরা ১৭ হাজার টাকা contribution না দিলে গভর্ণমেন্টের স্কীম কার্য্যকরী হবে না—এটা District Magistrate conference কোরে আমাদের জানিয়ে দিয়েছেন। স্কীম কোরেই এযাবৎ গভর্ণমেন্ট ৬৬ হাজার টাকার বেশী খরচ কোরেছেন। গভর্ণমেন্টের বিভাগীয় অবহেলা বা অন্য কিছু কিছু অদূরদর্শিতার ফলে এবং বিশেষ কোরে সেচ বিভাগের কর্ম্মচারিগণের স্বার্থসিদ্ধির জন্যই যে সকল বন্যাপীড়িত লোকদের এত ক্ষতি স্বীকার কোরতে হয়েছে নদীটীর সামান্য একটু উন্নতির জন্য তারা আজ যদি আংশিক খরচ না দেয় তাহলে উক্ত স্কীম কার্য্যকরী হবে না—এ যুক্তি আমরা বুঝতে পারলাম না। এবছর যেভাবে বাংলা সরকারের তহবিলের অর্থ বিতরণের বরাদ্দ হয়েছে তাতে কেলেঘাই নদীর সংস্কারের টাকা সবটাই সরকারের দেওয়া উচিত। এবার যেখানে গভর্ণমেন্ট সেন্টজেভিয়ার্স কলেজের জন্য দিয়েছেন দেড় লক্ষ টাকা, মুস্লিম হলের জন্য দিচ্ছেন লক্ষ টাকা, করটিয়া কলেজের জন্য ৬৭ হাজার টাকা, বর্দ্ধমান রাজ কলেজের জন্য ১,২৫,০০০ টাকা, আজাদকে দিয়েছেন ৩০ হাজার টাকা, মেদিনীপুরের জেলা ম্যাজিষ্ট্রেটের বসতবাটী কেনবার জন্য ৪৮ হাজার টাকা, কংশবতী নদীর উপর বার্জ ব্রীজ তৈরীর জন্য আড়াই লক্ষ টাকা এবং Department কর্ম্মচারীদের ঘর তৈরীর জন্য বহু টাকার খরচের বরাদ্দ কোরেছেন, সেখানে যে লোকগুলি তিন বার কোরে বন্যায় বিধ্বস্ত হোয়ে ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত হোয়েছে তাদের কাছ থেকে ১৭ হাজার টাকা contribution আদায় না হলে গভর্ণমেন্টের ছোট একটা স্কীম কার্য্যে পরিণত করা হবে না এর চেয়ে লজ্জাকর ব্যাপার আর কিছু হোতে পারে না।

তারপর এই কেলেঘাইএর বন্যার ইতিহাসটাও চমৎকার। নদীর দুদিকে এক মাইল হিসেবে Prohibited Area বাদ দিয়ে উঁচু বাঁধ হওয়ায় ক্রমশঃ নদীর দুইকূলে চর পোড়েছে এবং গভর্ণমেন্ট থেকে সেই চর বন্দোবস্ত দিয়ে রীতিমতন খাজনা আদায় করা হচ্ছে। প্রজাগণ নদীর চরে ৩ ফুট, ৩॥০ ফুটের বেশী বাঁধ দিতে পারে না, কিন্তু তবুও বাঁধগুলি [illegible] ৮।১০ ফুট উঁচু হয়ে গিয়েছে। এসব কিন্তু সেচ বিভাগের চোখের উপরকার ঘটনা। এসব বেআইনী বাঁধ কি কোরে হোলো—সেদিকে গভর্ণমেন্টের একটু অনুসন্ধান লওয়া উচিত। এই বাঁধ করার ফলে নদীর বিস্তার কোমে কোমে মকরাসী চরের কাছে মাত্র একশত ফুটে পরিণত হয়েছে। অথচ ১০।১৫ বর্গ মাইল স্থানের জল এই সরু প্রণালীর ভিতর দিয়ে বেরিয়ে যেতে না পারায় নদীর ২৩ ফুট উঁচু বাঁধ ভেঙ্গে দেয়। সেচ বিভাগের কর্ম্মচারিগণ যারা ঐ area র charge এ ছিলেন তাঁরা গোপনে বাঁধের অনুমতি দিয়ে বহুলাংশে লাভ কোরছেন অথবা অবহেলা কোরে কর্ত্তব্যের ত্রুটি কোরছেন। এখন এইসব বাঁধ সারাতে হলে যদি প্রজাকেই আবার টাকা দিতে হয়—সেটা অন্যায় ব্যবস্থা বোলেই আমরা মনে করি। আরো অনেক কথা বলবার ছিলো, কিন্তু সময় নাই। যে ৫ হাজার টাকাটা বাজেটে ধরা হয়েছে, ১৭ হাজার টাকা প্রজারা দিতে যদি রাজি না হয়—তাহলে গভর্ণমেন্ট সেটাকা ব্যয় কোরবেন না বলে কালেক্টর সাহেবের নিকট পত্র দিয়াছেন। কিন্তু প্রজারা যদি তাদের অক্ষমতার দরুণ একেবারেই না দিতে পারে তাহলে গভর্ণমেন্ট কিছুই খরচ কোরবেন না—এবিষয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয়কে বিবেচনা করার জন্য অনুরোধ করি এবং আশা করি revised budget এ ৮৫ হাজার টাকার সবটাই বরাদ্দ করিবেন এবং আশা করি গভর্ণমেন্ট প্রজাদের দৈন্য অবস্থার কথা সহানুভূতির সহিত বিবেচনা করিবেন।

(At this stage the member, having reached the time-limit, resumed his seat.)

Mr. PATIRAM ROY: I beg to move that the demand for a sum of Rs. 34,14,000 for expenditure under the heads "XVII, etc.—Irrigation" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion on the irrigation policy of Government.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, বাংলা দেশের ভূপ্রকৃতির দিকে দৃষ্টি দিলে দেখতে পাওয়া যায় যে, আমাদের বাংলা যেন নদীর জলে ঘেরা। একদিন ছিলো যখন এই নদীগুলি মাতৃস্তন্যের ন্যায় বাংলা দেশকে ফলে ফুলে সুশোভিত কোরতো। এবং তার কৃষি ও বানিজ্যের উন্নতির কারণ হতো, কিন্তু বর্তমানে নদীগুলির আর সে অবস্থা নাই। বাংলার প্রায় সবগুলি নদীই মোরতে বসেছে। গঙ্গা, দামোদর প্রভৃতি এবং তাদের শাখা প্রশাখা নদী, খাল ইত্যাদি যা আছে সেগুলিরও জল নিকাশের ক্ষমতা হারিয়ে গেছে। Bengal Government এর Expert ইঞ্জিনিয়ার যাঁরা তাঁরা অনেকেই বলেন যে, বাংলা নদ নদীর কাজ পলি আনিয়া ভূমি গঠন করা, তার কাজ শেষ হোয়ে গেছে তাই তারা মোরতে বোসেছে। তারপরে যখন স্যার উইলিয়ম উইলকক্স এসে বাংলার সমস্ত নদীর অবস্থা পরিদর্শন কোরলেন এবং তিনি বললেন যে, বাংলার নদীগুলি স্বাভাবিকভাবে মরে নাই। বাংলার নদীর মৃত্যুর কারণ ব্যক্তিবিশেষের দ্বারা কৃত্রিম উপায়ে ঘটানো হয়েছে। এই নদী-পথগুলিকে যদি পুনরায় প্রবহমান করা যায় তাহলেই বাংলার কৃষি ও স্বাস্থ্যের উন্নতি হওয়ার খুবই সম্ভব। গঙ্গা নদী পাঁচশো বছর পূর্বে যে পরিমাণ জল বহন কোরে আনতো আজো পর্যন্ত ঠিক সেই পরিমাণ জলই বহন কোরে নিয়ে আসে। কিন্তু সে জল নিকাশের পথ না পেয়ে বাংলার মধ্যভাগ এবং দক্ষিণ ভাগের কতকাংশ জলাভাবে মোরতে বোসেছে। আর অন্য অংশে জল প্লাবনের ফলে ফসল সব মোরে যাচ্ছে এবং ম্যালেরিয়া প্রভৃতি অন্য সমস্ত আনুসঙ্গিক বিপদও দেখা দিচ্ছে। জলের এই স্বাভাবিক গতিতে বাঁধ প্রভৃতি যে সমস্ত কারণে বাধা উৎপাদিত হয়েছে সেগুলিকে যদি অপসারিত কোরে দেওয়া হয় তাহলে জল নিকাশ হওয়ার যে পথগুলি এখনো বর্তমান আছে সেই পথে জল অবাধে চলে যেতে পারে এবং তার ফলে বাংলাদেশের শ্রী ও সম্পদ পুনরায় বৃদ্ধি হোতে পারে। তাই আমি গভর্ণমেন্টকে বোলতে চাই যে, বাংলার নদীগুলির প্রবাহিত হওয়ার পথে যে সমস্ত অন্তরায় আছে সে দিকে অবিলম্বে লক্ষ্যকরা এবং অপসারিত করা একান্ত আবশ্যক।

Mr. DAVID HENDRY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, since the irrigation grant was discussed last year, there has been the interesting development of holding the conference in July to consider the replies to the questionnaire which was issued by the ministry earlier in the year and of which a copy was sent to every member of this House. Dr. Sanyal has likened the conference to a mountain after much labour producing a mouse, but I still consider that the minutes of the conferences and the resolutions arrived at, go some way towards stating the case and setting out the problem which faces the Irrigation Department. Some of the resolutions are elementary, but in setting out a case surely it is necessary to include the elements. The recommendations of this conference have on the whole been approved by the European Party. The problems of irrigation in Bengal, linked as they are with drainage, navigation and public health, are complicated in the extreme, and it is only right that they should receive most careful consideration. I would admit that I agree with Dr. Sanyal in his main contention that the irrigation problems of Bengal need a new approach and much more in the way of funds to carry out a comprehensive scheme than have been hitherto allowed.

In the past year the Irrigation Department has shown a very commendable activity in formulating new schemes and preparing the way for still further schemes and this new activity can only receive our approval and support. Irrigation is of such fundamental importance to the cultivator that in our opinin it does merit the expenditure of much more money than has been allotted, and it is more than disappointing to find that the demand this year is only Rs. 2,500 more than last year. Due to the Irrigation works and the improved communications built up in past years, the spectre of famine no longer stalks the land; but a great deal of hardship and distress still exists in the rural districts which should be alleviated and removed for the betterment of the cultivator and the province as a whole. Irrigation is one of the best ways of bringing about this improvement in those districts which suffer from inadequate and irregular supplies of water, and there is great need for a more comprehensive policy and programme of work than has yet been attempted. Successful irrigation requires imagination as well as skilful engineering. But above all it requires finance to enable the schemes drawn up to be carried out. We have watched with great interest the fresh activity shown in irrigation matters during the past year, but with no evidence of better financial provision much of this activity must be of a temporary nature only, unless it can be followed up

So far as we have been able to ascertain, the staff employed on new projects are taken on for a period of one year only and the uncertainty which is engendered by such temporary make-shifts should have no place in a clear-cut and comprehensive irrigation policy, such as this province needs. Irrigation work is of a long-range nature and should be planned on long-range and stable lines, and I would ask the Hon'ble Minister for Irrigation to make some attempt to give greater permanence to the work now being carried out by giving greater permanence to the staff employed upon it.

For a comprehensive irrigation policy a great deal of investigational work is necessary and what is most needed in the initial stages is accurate data, based upon, careful contour surveys. The present temporary staff and equipment appear to be inadequate for this purpose and the department as a whole needs to be strengthened. For example, we understand that the very important contour survey of Central Bengal and the surveys and approximate estimates for the Dwarkeswar and More projects, which between them will irrigate about 6½ lakhs of acres, will be brought under one temporary circle sanctioned for one year. The Mymensingh, Dacca, Tripura, Chittagong and Noakhali districts have temporarily been formed into a division. Other changes of a similar nature are, we understand, in prospect, but they still constitute a skeleton frame-work—a temporary skeleton at that—to deal with a very large problem. To take a specific example, it is

obviously quite impossible for an Executive Engineer at Khulna to deal adequately with irrigation problems arising in Mymensingh and Chittagong, particularly if he is cluttered up with routine work which gives him no time to study any problem at all. The only conclusion one can draw from this, Sir, is that the Irrigation Department needs more staff. For this it needs more money, and to ensure the greatest advantage being derived from its Beneficent activities its policy and plans should be drawn on long-range lines for which money must be assured. This brings me to the question of finance and a view which we in this group hold very strongly. When satisfactory irrigation schemes have been planned and put into operation, they should, as far as possible, pay for themselves, and strong steps should be taken to limit the activities of those who stir up agitation against the payment of irrigation rates and dues. The worst sufferer—one might say the only real sufferer—from such agitation is in the long run the cultivator himself using the term in its widest sense. For when, by agitation, rates and dues are withheld and irrigation schemes are thereby rendered unprofitable and become a burden on the general revenues, provision of funds for new and equally beneficent irrigation schemes is held up and the advantage and benefits which the cultivator should receive are denied to him. For example, the Damodar Canal Scheme which has been much criticised but which has nevertheless benefited the *raiyats* considerably, was carried out largely as an experiment for guidance in rehabilitating the decadent areas in Bengal amounting to almost 20,000 square miles; and the agitators who have caused so much trouble in that area will be to blame if by forcing down the rates to uneconomic levels the Damodar Canal Scheme is a failure and the boon of irrigation is withheld from the vastly greater area still to be dealt with.

The benefits of irrigation are very great indeed and extend beyond the actual cultivator who takes the water to grow his crops; the health of a district may be improved, and communications and trade in irrigated districts are certainly benefited. For this reason, it is frequently argued that more of the cost of irrigation schemes should be met out of the general revenues—and even that water should be provided free altogether by Government. But the cost of irrigation schemes is so vast that this is obviously impracticable—larger schemes in India have run into crores of rupees—and the benefits to the cultivator who actually uses the water are so specific that it is equally obvious that he should and can afford to pay for them. At the same time, there is a great deal to be said for avoiding overburdening irrigation projects with unnecessary overhead charges, and in drawing up new schemes we hope that the Government will give very careful attention to this question.

The irrigation problems of Bengal, Sir, are affected by factors far beyond the boundaries of Bengal itself, and we must congratulate the Hon'ble Minister for Irrigation on the part he has taken in initiating the co-ordination of activities of the provinces adjacent to Bengal with a view to lowering the level of destructive floods within the Ganges basin by controlling deforestation and encouraging afforestation in the catchment areas and by controlling extraction of the Ganges water during the low-water season which are all questions which can only be effectively dealt with by the provinces concerned, putting their heads together. Such co-operation can only result in good, and we wish the Hon'ble Minister every success in his efforts to make this co-operation real and effective.

The interest shown by the Hon'ble Minister in reviving the project of a hydraulic research station in Bengal with, if possible, the financial co-operation of the neighbouring provinces is also satisfactory and indicates that the wider scientific aspects of irrigation are not being neglected.

In fact, Sir, the activities of the Irrigation Department during the past year merit our commendation rather than our condemnation, and we trust that such beneficent activities will continue and develop; and that the Government will contrive in future years to provide it with the much larger grant which it needs. Let us hear less of temporary staff and temporary expedients and more of comprehensive, far-sighted planning, backed up by adequate finance

Mr. B. MUKHERJEE:

Mr Speaker, Sir, মিঃ প্রমথনাথ বানার্জির নামে যে ছাটাই প্রস্তাব রয়েছে আমি তা উপস্থাপিত করছি। দামোদর ও ইডেন কেনেল অঞ্চল অবাঞ্ছনীয়রূপে পরিচালনার জন্য সেচ বিভাগের মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয়ের প্রার্থিত অর্থ হ'তে একশত টাকা কাটিয়া দেওয়া হউক।

এ সম্বন্ধে কিছু বলবার পূর্বে আমি য়ুরোপীয় সাধু ব্যক্তিদের একটা কথা বোলে রাখি। তাঁরা দামোদর আন্দোলনকে গভর্ণমেন্টের প্রাপ্য অর্থ যা দেওয়ার ষড়যন্ত্র ব'লে ক্রোধ ও উষ্মা প্রকাশ করবেন, তাঁদের মোনে করিয়ে দেওয়া দরকার Steamer Company গুলি গভর্ণমেন্টকে তার প্রাপ্য মাসুলের ব্যাপারে বরাবর প্রবঞ্চনা ক'রে আসচেন। যে মাল তাঁরা বহন করে থাকেন সেই মালের মাশুল তাঁরা কিছুতেই দেন না। যে মাল বহন করা তাঁদের লাইসেন্সে আছে মাত্র সেইটুকুই দেন এবং actual right লুকুতে নানা ষড়যন্ত্র ক'রতে এবং stuggling এর সাহায্য নিতেও ইতস্ততঃ করেন না। মনে রাখা দরকার যে যেসকল খাল, বিল প্রভৃতিতে ষ্টীমার চলে তাদের রক্ষণাবেক্ষণই সেচ বিভাগের সব চেয়ে বড় খরচ এবং Steamer Company গুলির মালীকেরা শুধু য়ুরোপীয়। তাদের প্রবঞ্চনার গুরুত্ব গিয়ে পড়ে দরিদ্র কৃষকের উপর।

বিগত স্থগিত প্রস্তাবের সময় গভর্ণমেন্ট ধরে নিয়েছিলেন যে প্রতিপক্ষের মত ক্যানেলের দ্বারা কোনও উপকার হয় না। এবং তারই উপর ভিত্তি কোরে তাদের সমস্ত যুক্তি দাঁড় করিয়েছিলেন। আমরা কোনও দিন বলি নি যে ক্যানেলের দ্বারা কোনও উপকার হয় নি। বরাবর বলে আসছি উপকার যা হয় মূল্য তার চেয়ে অনেক বেশী দাবী করা হচ্ছে। গভর্ণমেন্ট দেখিয়েছেন যে ক্যানেল হওয়ার আগে জমিতে ৩।৪ মণ ধান হত এবং এখন ৭।৮ মণ হয়।

কিন্তু কোনও নিরপেক্ষ বিচারালয়ে ওটা প্রমাণ করবার চেষ্টা করেন নি। কংগ্রেস তদন্ত কমিটি বহু গ্রামে ঘুরে তথ্য সংগ্রহ করচেন। পুরোনো হিসেবের খাতা, জমি লেনদেনের দলিল কোবালা প্রভৃতি থেকে দেখেচেন যে ফসল আগেও হত ৭।৮ মণ এখনও তাই। ক্যানেলের লাভ অনাবৃষ্টি হ'লে দুর্বৎসর। সেই হিসেবে তাঁরা দেখিয়েচেন যে একরপ্রতি একমণ ধান ও একপণ খড় বা তার মূল্যস্বরূপ তথাকার হিসাবমত ১॥৹ টাকা দেওয়া যেতে পারে। গভর্ণমেণ্ট বলেন তাঁরাও এখন ভূমি উন্নতি বিষয়ের আইন ঐ অঞ্চল থেকে প্রত্যাহার করেচেন। বাকী খাজনা ২॥৵ হিসেবে কমিয়েছেন এবং Irrigation Act অনুসারে দীর্ঘ মেয়াদ ৩॥৹ হারে ও অল্প মেয়াদ ৪॥৹ হারে দাবী করচেন, এত আর বাধ্যতামূলক নয়। যার লাভ মনে হবে সেই নেবে। কৃষকদের বক্তব্য পুরোনো সব সেচব্যবস্থা ক্যানেল কাটাবার সময় নষ্ট করে দেওয়া হয়েছে। কাজেই ক্যানেলের জল চাই—কিন্তু ন্যায্য মূল্যে। গভর্ণমেণ্ট আজ এই জল বেচে লাভ করতে চাইচেন। ১৯৩৩ সালে Irrigation Act এ জলের Tax একরপ্রতি ৩॥৹ টাকা ধরা হয়। তাতে সেচ বিভাগের রক্ষণ খরচ ও সুদ maintenance ও interest charges দুই ধরা হয়েছিল। আজ যখন ভারত গভর্ণমেণ্ট বাঙ্গলা গভর্ণমেণ্টকে ঐ ক্যানেল কাটার ধারের টাকা থেকে রেহাই দিয়েছেন সুদ দিতে হয় না—তখন ৩॥৹ টাকা রেট্ ধরা বেঁনে বুদ্ধি নয় কি?

দামোদরের জল সরবরাহ হয় ১৩৫,০০০ একর জমিতে, খরচ ২,৫৬,০০০ টাকা, একরপ্রতি ২৲ টাকা খুবই উচ্চ মূল্য হবে। ইডেন ক্যানেল সরবরাহ করে ৬৫,০০০ একর জমি, খরচ ১,২৬,০০০ টাকা, একরপ্রতি ১॥৹ ধরলে যথেষ্ট ধরা হয়। গত বছর দাবী করা হয়েছিল ৫০,০০০, এবছর ১,২৬,০০০ টাকা। একবছরে খড়খরচা Extra charge ৩৩,০০০ থেকে ৭৬,০০০ কেন হয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয় একটু প্রকাশ করে বলবেন কি? অথচ শুনতে পাওয়া যায় যে ঐ ক্যানেলটি কোন কাজেরই নয়। গত বছর প্রধান মন্ত্রীমহাশয় আশ্বাস দিয়েছিলেন যে দামোদর ও ইডেন ক্যানেল সম্বন্ধে ব্যাপক তদন্ত করে এই পরিষদকে জানাবেন। দামোদরের সম্বন্ধে শুধু এইটুকু জানা গেছে অধিকাংশ সভ্যের মত অনুসারে ২॥৵ রেট্ ধরা হোয়েছে। এর চেয়ে কম করার মত যাঁরা করেছিলেন, তাঁদের যুক্তিগুলিই বা জানান হয় নাই কেন? এবং পরে ৩॥৹ টাকা ও ৪॥৹ টাকা রেটই বা করা হয় কেন? ইডেন ক্যানেল সম্বন্ধে গভর্ণমেণ্ট একেবারে বাক্যহারাই বা কেন? সামান্য কয়েক লক্ষ টাকা আদায়ের জন্য যে বর্বরোচিত অত্যাচার চলছে গভর্ণমেণ্ট তার সংবাদ রাখেন কি? দ্বিজপদ পালের ৬৬॥৹ টাকার দরুণ গহনাপত্র, গরুবাছুর ৪৪০৲ টাকার সম্পত্তি বাজেয়াপ্ত হোয়েছে। সম্ভ্রান্ত ঘরের স্ত্রীলোকদের ডেকে এনে অশ্লীল ভাষায় গাল দেওয়া হোচ্ছে। ভাস্কর গুঁইএর পত্নীকে রোদে দাঁড় করিয়ে রাখা হোয়েছিল যতক্ষণ না তার স্বামী হাজির হয়। সেখ খাতিওর মল্লিকের ঘরে ঢুকে মারপিট করা হয়। সেখ রসল হকের ছোট ছেলেকে তাড়া করা হয়। সেখ ইদেন বক্সকে গলায় কাপড় দিয়ে মারিতে মারিতে—

Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have never grudged the big irrigation schemes of Western and Central Bengal, rather we have welcomed them. Neither do we grudge the contour survey that has been undertaken by the Government there, but, Sir, should the irrigation needs of Eastern Bengal be neglected by the present Government as ever? The irrigation schemes of Western and Central Bengal are of huge magnitude, and, necessarily, they require huge funds, while in East Bengal it is quite the contrary, for the schemes are less costly, but they are of immense value to the poor agriculturists. There are small schemes which, if taken up now, will

require only a few thousands or a few hundreds of rupees, but in case of delay, I am afraid, these works will assume gigantic proportions and require a huge expenditure of money.

In my district, the district of Bakarganj, a river or khal serves three-fold purposes, viz., (1) irrigation, (2) communication, (3) water-supply—I mean supply of drinking-water, as tube-wells are more or less a failure in my district. By the silting-up of these important waterways, lands of the vicinity have greatly deteriorated in fertility, and the countryside is fast becoming a barren waste. Pure drinking-water has become a scarce commodity, and communication by boat, which is the only easy communication in our district, is almost closed save and except during the rains. Time and again, I have tried to impress upon the Government the urgent necessity of improving the *bil* areas in my district, which are just on the borders of the district of Faridpur. So, Sir, it is an inter-district problem which demands the serious attention of the Government. Vast tracts of arable land are lying water-logged throughout the year. Malaria, cholera, and other epidemic diseases have made their permanent abode and have been creating havoc amongst the poor population, who live in extremely insanitary conditions. These *bil* areas are known as Satla, Baghdha, Harta, and Tetla Bils. Here again, the floods, from time to time, as in the last year, accentuate the distress of the people living in the locality. Last year I made an earnest appeal, and again I do reiterate the same, to the Hon'ble the Chief Minister, who comes from the district of Bakarganj, and who is also a landlord of one of these *bils*—I mean Harta—and the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the department to go to the locality and see the miserable state of things for themselves. The people of Satla areas have cried themselves hoarse. The zemindars, who are absentee landlords, I mean the Narail Babus, have not paid any heed to that cry. We requested the District Magistrate to visit the Satla area, which he was kind enough to do, and he was convinced of the urgency of improving the *bil* areas. In the locality which he inspected he was convinced of the necessity of constructing an embankment. With the money provided by him, and supplemented by a contribution of Rs. 500 from the district board and voluntary labour, a small embankment has been constructed, but, Sir, it is only a small and stray effort, which cannot give us a permanent solution of the problem. A comprehensive scheme for the excavation of khals which serve as outlets and the construction of embankments and the digging of tanks is necessary for improving the area and doing lasting good to the poor people in respect of agriculture, supply of pure drinking-water, eradication of malaria and other preventible diseases.

The district board with its poor resources cannot possible tackle this huge problem, but the board, as well as the people, I feel sure, will be ready to co-operate in all possible ways with the Government if they be

pleased only to ask for it. Sir, it is high time that proper steps were taken by the Government to have a comprehensive and well-thought-out scheme, so that further time may not elapse in the matter of the improvement of the *bil* areas being taken in hand in right earnest.

In this respect, I would urge for a co-ordination of the Departments of Irrigation and Agriculture, as the one is vitally connected with the other for mass amelioration.

Lastly, Sir, I would urge upon the Government the question of taking up the road project under the King scheme from Calcutta to Barisal at an early date. I have no objection, however, if Barisal is connected with the Calcutta-Jessore Road at any convenient place. I would ask the present Government to remember the fact that Barisal has not an inch of railway, and so the necessity of this road is all the more great and urgent. I hope that the Government will take up this matter without any further delay.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the trend of this year's budget discussion is different from that of the previous two years. We found, in previous two years, members of the Coalition Party supporting Government by their speeches as also their votes. I do not know, Sir, whether Government have taken note of this prominent fact, viz., that this year their supporters, the members of the Coalition Party, are adversely criticising the budget, though, at the same time, they are voting in favour of the demands they so severely criticise. (A voice from the Coalition benches: "This is done every year.")

Sir, my friend Khan Bahadur Maulvi Abidur Reza Chowdhury was optimistic enough to cherish hopes that Government would do something in the near future. So far as the Irrigation Department was concerned, Sir, I might say that the samples of activities of the Government are very discouraging. Sir, there cannot be any two opinions about the importance of this department, but when we scrutinise the budget allotments of previous years and those of this year, we find that this department, though unquestionably the most useful and important, has been the most neglected. If the irrigation projects are carried out properly, this will not only improve the agricultural prospect of the province, but will also solve the public health problem and eradicate famine and floods.

Sir, I want to draw the attention of Government especially to the conditions of the North Bengal districts. I endorse what has been said by my friends Mr. Abdul Jabbar and Mr. Premhari Barma, and, in addition, I would like to observe that in my district of Dinajpur, due to breaches in the embankments, old and existing, 8,000 bighas of lands near the village Kardaha in police-station Tapan are inundated every year, and that about 50 square miles of lands near the villages of

Hossainpur, Govindpur, and Sundra in police-station Gangarampur are devastated every year by the waters of river Punarbhaba. Then, again, with the silting up of the natural drainage existing near the village of Khamrua in Itahar thana, about 2,000 bighas of lands near the Mandol Bils and Baradol have become almost unculfivable.

I have no time, Sir, to describe in detail the miseries of the tenants who own land in these areas. Suffice it to say that their miseries know no bounds. We have drawn the pointed attention of Government to this state of affairs by way of putting questions on the floor of this House, by our speeches in previous sessions of the Assembly and by long-drawn correspondence with the department, but it seems to me that Government are indifferent and do not intend to move in the matter. In reply to one of my letters Government informed me that it was for the benefit of the tenants that they were not going to repair the breaches in the embankments. I do not know, Sir, whether this benefit has been reserved solely for my district of Dinajpur, or whether it is in the contemplation of Government to demolish all embankments throughout the province, and to shower this benefit on other districts as well. (Laugther.)

Sir, I could not follow the Hon'ble Minister in charge when he was speaking, but I could follow only one sentence of his speech when he told us that Government were endeavouring——

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had no desire to intervene in this debate, coming as I do to this House representing an urban constituency, viz., the metropolitan constituency of East Calcutta. But there is one standing grievance which I had occasion to ventilate in this House in previous years, and with regard to which I have had the good fortune of having some promise from the Hon'ble Minister. It is in respect of the Ultadanga bridge which has been closed to vehicular traffic for the last few years—five or ten years I do not know—but since then nothing whatsoever has been done for the purpose of renovating that bridge or constructing it again, if necessary, to restore vehicular traffic over that bridge.

As I told the Hon'ble Minister on a previous occasion, this bridge connects two important mercantile centres, viz., Ultadanga and Shyambazar. This bridge leads directly to Ultadanga Main Road which terminates at the Ultadanga Railway Station. That means that one of the fringed areas of Calcutta where industry and commerce thrives has been closed to traffic. I should think Government ought to have taken that into consideration and had been more alert in devising financial means for the purpose of undertaking that work, but up till now nothing whatsoever has been done. This bridge is closed

to vehicular traffic and it presents a sombre appearance to the passers-by reminding everyone that the Government of Bengal has gone to sleep so far as this bridge is concerned. And all vehicular traffic has to make a long detour over the Manicktalla bridge and utilise the Canal East Road which has been overworked and consequently constantly under repairs; and it presents a spectacle which does not certainly do any credit to the department which is in charge of roads. Therefore, I would ask the Hon'ble Minister once again just to be a little more alert with regard to this matter. Last year, I heard a reply from the Hon'ble Minister that the Calcutta Improvement Trust had had something to do with the construction or the contribution of funds; but who is to rouse the Calcutta Improvement Trust again to activity? Is it the Government of Bengal or anybody else? If they are to bear a share of the financial burden, it is certainly up to the Government to be up and doing and to ask the Calcutta Improvement Trust and to charge them with a proper sense of duty. If that is done, certainly things would be made moving once again; but if nothing is done and it is neglected as before, I should think that it would be a standing shame to the department which has evidently forgotten about the existence of this bridge. That certainly would be an instance of glaring inactivity deserving of strong condemnation.

Mr. SPEAKER: I find there is time for one speaker from the right to speak before I ask the Hon'ble Minister to reply. I had a lottery held of four speakers and in the lottery which was drawn by Khan Bahadur Mohammed Ali, the name of Maulvi Idris Ahmed Mia was shown.

Maulvi IDRIS AHMED MIA:

মাননীয় সভাপতি মহাশয়, অতি বন্যায় ফসল ডুবার জন্য একদিকে বাংলার গরীব প্রজাদের দুর্দ্দশার তাণ্ডবনৃত্য, আর একদিকে দেখতে পাচ্ছি বাংলা গভর্ণমেন্টের সেচ বিভাগের লক্ষ লক্ষ টাকা খরচ। কিন্তু এই লক্ষ লক্ষ টাকা খরচ কোরে যদি সেচ বিভাগের বর্ত্তমানে যে কাজ করবার আছে—তার অর্দ্ধেক কাজও হোতো তাহলে বাংলাদেশের গরীব প্রজাদের কিছু ভালো হচ্ছে—একথা বুঝতে পারতেম। নদীসংস্কার ও খাল, বাঁধ প্রভৃতি নিয়ন্ত্রণকার্য্য বাংলাদেশের একটা প্রধান সমস্যা। হিন্দু-মুসলমান রাজত্বে আমাদের মালদহ জেলায় যে সমস্ত বাঁধ ও জলসেচের ব্যবস্থা ছিলো—তার ফলেই জেলার বাণিজ্য ও কৃষির প্রচুর উন্নতি হয়েছিলো। বহুস্থানে কয়েক মাইল লম্বা যেসমস্ত বাঁধ এখনো আছে, ১৫।২০ হাজার টাকা খরচ কোরে সেগুলোকে সংস্কার করালে লক্ষ লক্ষ লোকের উপকার হোতে পারে, কিন্তু তার জন্য কোন চেষ্টা আজো যে করা হচ্ছে না এ বড়ই দুঃখের বিষয়। এইবছর আমাদের মালদা জেলায় ভয়ঙ্কর বন্যার দরুণ গভর্ণমেন্টকে তিনলক্ষ সাড়ে তিন লক্ষ টাকা ধার দিতে হয়েছে। আমি বোলে রাখছি—শুধু এই টাকাই নয় আরো ঐরকম টাকা অনেকবার ব্যয় করবার জন্য গভর্ণমেন্ট যেন প্রস্তুত থাকেন। কেননা হিমালয় হইতে বর্ষার জল দিনাজপুর জেলার বংশীহারী থানার রূপহাটা প্রভৃতি নিম্নভূমি দিয়া যে জলরাশি মালদহ জেলার উত্তরাংশে গাজল বামুণগোলা থানার ডুবা অংশে জমা হয় তার নিকাশের কোন পথ নাই। আমাদের ই, বি, রেলওয়ে এমব্যাঙ্কমেন্টের জল বের হবার একটামাত্র পথ মুচিয়া রেলষ্টেসনের নিকটবর্ত্তী স্থানে। আর কোন রাস্তাই বহু মাইলের সঞ্চিত জল বের হবার নাই। আরও কয়েকটা জলনিকাশী রাস্তা

সত্বর আবশ্যক। এদিকে মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয়ের তীব্র দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ কোরছি। কিন্তু দৃষ্টির আগেই দেখছি কয়েকজন বড়লোকদের মটর ও গাড়ীঘোড়া চলাফেরার সামান্য সুবিধার জন্য গরীবদের যেসব দুর্দ্দশা আছে তাদের সেই দুর্দ্দশা বৃদ্ধির পুনরায় ব্যবস্থা করা হচ্ছে,—আমাদের মালদহের একমাত্র উল্লেখযোগ্য প্রবহমান নদী যে মহানন্দা সেই মহানন্দার মালদহ টাউনের একটী ব্রীজ করবার ব্যবস্থা কোরে। আমি দেখেছি Mr. King রাজসাহী বিভাগের যে রিপোর্ট দিয়েছেন মালদহের রাস্তা ও পুলের জন্য তাতে কয়েক লক্ষ টাকা খরচের এষ্টিমেটের ব্যবস্থা হয়েছে। এক সাড়া ব্রীজ দেওয়াতেই সারা উত্তর বাংলাকে ডুবিয়ে দেবার ব্যবস্থা করা হয়েছে। এখন মালদার একমাত্র বহমান নদীর উপরে আর একটা পুল কোরে সারা মালদা জেলাটাকে শেষ করবার ব্যবস্থা হচ্ছে। আগে রাস্তা না কো'রে এব্যবস্থাটা কেন হোতে চোলেছে? মালদা টাউনের দুচারজন লোকের মটর হাঁকানোর সুবিধা নাই,—সেই অসুবিধা দূর করার জন্যেই এই ব্যবস্থাটা হচ্ছে? বড় বড় লোকদের মটর চালানোর সুবিধা করার আগে, আমার বক্তব্য এই যে মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয় নিজে গিয়ে যেন মালদহের রাস্তার অবস্থা দেখে আসেন, এবং দেখে যদি তাঁর ধারণা হয় যে বহুলোকের অসুবিধা করেও উক্ত ব্রীজটা আগে করা দরকার, রাস্তা করার দরকার নাই তাহলে কোরবেন। মাননীয় স্পীকার সাহেবকে একটা কথা জিজ্ঞাসা করবো। তিনি যখন মন্ত্রী ছিলেন তখনকার তাঁর অনেক বক্তৃতায় বুঝেছি যে তাঁর গরীবের প্রতি দরদ ছিলো। এখন অবশ্য তাঁকে সেবিষয়ে কিছু বোলতে পারি না, কিন্তু তাঁর বোধ হয় মনে আছে যে গরীবদের জন্য তাঁর অন্তরে ব্যথা ছিলো এবং তাদের সম্বন্ধে অনেক কথা তিনি বোলেছিলেন। এখন সেইসব কথামত আমাদের মন্ত্রীমহাশয়েরও গরীবের বন্ধু হওয়া উচিত নয় কি? কয়েক লক্ষ টাকা ব্যয় কোরলে দেশের উন্নতির ব্যবস্থা যদি হয় তাহলে সেটা অবিলম্বে করা উচিত। আমাদের মন্ত্রীমহাশয়ের আদর্শ স্থানীয় প্রশংসনীয় পিতা নিজের ধন ব্যয় কোরে দেশের উপকারস্বরূপ বহু পুন্য কাজ কোরে গেছেন, আশা করি তিনি দেশের ও পরের ধন ব্যয় কোরে কিছু পুন্যসঞ্চয় কোরবেন, এবং যাতে বন্যার প্রকোপ নিবারিত হোয়ে দেশে অবাধে ফসল রক্ষা হয় তার জন্য চেষ্টা কোরবেন।

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: Sir, Dr. Sanyal has described the report of the Expert Committee as not having even the worth of the paper on which it was printed. I quite realise the reason which led him to hold that view. I believe it was possibly because he was not invited to the Conference——

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: On a point of order, Sir. The Hon'ble Minister is not entitled to ascribe motives. He ought to be ashamed of——

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid, you are not entitled to interrupt the Hon'ble Minister in the way you did. I quite understand your position that you claim protection on the allegation that a motive has been ascribed, but, at the same time, you yourself ascribed the worst motive that is possible. I cannot understand this. If you want protection, you are expected at least to give the same protection to others, and I might say that the best saying I can think of which is applicable to you is a few lines from a Scotch poet:—

> "O wad some power the giftie gie us,
> To see ourselves as ithers see us."

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: On the other hand, I am glad to note from the remark of Mr. Hendry that although he report contains some elementary items, it has some valuable suggestions. I am astonished to learn from Dr. Sanyal that he thinks that we can solve the problem of resuscitation of the dead and dying rivers overnight even without the data being collected and a survey undertaken beforehand. I wonder if even one had in his possession the wonderful lamp of Aladin it would not be possible to do so!

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: You have not provided money for the survey and research laboratory. We don't find any mention of them in the budget.

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: The money for survey is already there and we have undertaken examining the proposal of ultimately establishing a hydraulic laboratory. In a matter like this it will be agreed we cannot be hasty. We are in correspondence, with the neighbouring Governments, and as soon as we hear from them, we shall formulate our scheme.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: You need not wait for them.

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: I may remind Dr. Sanyal that we are not waiting for them. As a matter of fact, we have invited an expert to come and draw up a scheme at once.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: He has already submitted one.

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: He has not. I am glad Mr. Hendry has raised the question of *pro rata* distribution of the cost of establishment and so has Dr. Sanyal. This is really a very important question. Schemes which are really productive are made to appear unremunerative by a curious process of calculation. I may assure them that we have taken up the question in right earnest with the department concerned. Dr. Sanyal has referred to the report of the Hopkyns Committee and suggests that we should have more executive divisions. I would at once say that although we have been able to increase only one division I would certainly like to add to it when the funds are available. It would lose its utility if the division be not placed on a permanent basis. The question of reviving the dead and dying rivers is admittedly a very complicated one. As soon as the survey is completed next year, we would set up a machinery to draw up a programme. Next we will

proceed to North Bengal for the contour survey and thereafter to Eastern Bengal. In the meantime, we will take up smaller schemes of importance for some of those districts, as far as our funds will permit.

Some speakers have referred to the Gumti Embankment. I admit this question has been before the Government for some time. A survey was made with a view to examine the proposal of escapes. Now it appears that the proposed escapes while removing the difficulties of the people of Comilla may adversely affect the people in the villages. It is for that reason that we are seriously considering the question as to whether we could undertake the maintenance of the embankments which for the time being are not under Government control. The question of maintaining the embankments which we took over from His Highness the Maharaja of Tippera has a long history and Government certainly cannot be made responsible for not undertaking to protect the embankment which it was the duty of others to do.

Mr. Thakur has referred to an excavation scheme in the Gopalganj subdivision. I may tell him for his information that the matter has already been brought to the notice of Government by the Coalition Party.

Mr. PROMATHA RANJAN THAKUR: But Government has done nothing.

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: Government is examining the scheme. The fact is that the scheme was undertaken a few years back by the local people but it had to be stopped as no survey was made beforehand. If the scheme was allowed to continue, there was every risk of the rivers Coomar and Chandana and even the Madaripur Bil Route being affected. It is an admitted fact that the northern and the western parts of the district are in need of the improvement of drainage.

The Salbandh scheme referred to also has a long history, the weir having been acquired by Government from the Soceity a few years back. Unfortunately it has not been possible due to various causes to settle up the question of the financial liability of the Society.

The Kalindi Bundh Scheme was purely an irrigation scheme. I may point out that the acquisition of the *bund* which belonged to a private party could not be made owing to various difficulties.

Sir, as regards the complaint that no scheme worth mentioning has been taken up in the Mymensingh district, I am sorry Mr. Roy has quoted only a portion of my reply to his question, and has not done me full justice. I have stated on more than one occasion in this House that the knowledge of the department about the irrigational needs of those parts is very meagre.

As regards the Karatoa Resuscitation Scheme I may inform the House that the estimate which was drawn up at first had to be revised subsequently. As soon as that is finished, I believe the work will be taken in hand.

My friend Mr. Reza Chowdhury has referred to the question of tube-well irrigation scheme. Although it does not strictly concern my department, I may say that the tube-well scheme without cheap power can never be a success. The success which the United Provinces Government have achieved for the supply of cheap electricity by the Grid system. Mr. Gomes has referred to the present deplorable condition of the river Ichamati in the Dacca district. I do not know if any feasible scheme can be formulated to improve matters.

Sir, the decay of rivers commences much earlier in Bengal than in other places and the shifting of the course is also more frequent. This factor only increases the difficulty to formulate any comprehensive scheme to resuscitate them. I agree that the river problem of East Bengal must be tackled before it is too late. (MR. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Within the next three years or more?)

Sir, Rai Harendra Nath Chaudhuri has referred to the Jamuna resuscitation scheme which I admit has also a fairly long history. Three districts are involved in this scheme and that makes the solution of the problems all the more difficult. I am afraid it must wait the comprehensive contour survey which is now in progress.

I expected Mr. Mal to have taken a quite different attitude to the Kaliaganj scheme which has been possible for the Government to take in hand after it had waited for a considerable period.

Sir, I am grateful to Mr. Hendry for the many valuable suggestions he has made specially as regards the insufficiency of the staff of the department. The difficulty of increasing any technical staff is to get the proper type of men in sufficient number.

I do not propose to refer to the Damodar Canal question as that has been sufficiently dealt with by my honourable colleague, Sir Nazimuddin, while the adjournment motion was moved in the House.

As regards the Ultadanga bridge I am aware that the delay in the progress of work is causing some amount of inconvenience to the public. I am also aware of the difficulties which are being experienced owing to the delay in the construction of the bridge in Cossipore. I can assure the House that I shall look into both the cases.

Sir, I will now conclude my speech by summarising the activities of the department briefly. Sir, the irrigation problems of the province have been thoroughly analysed. The advice of the Expert Committee as well as the views of members of both Houses and public bodies outside have been obtained in formulating the policy of the department.

Our staff has been increased, though not on a permanent basis; but I have every hope, that it would be made permanent. The contour survey has been undertaken in right earnest and will be continued. Scheme for a scientific study is being drawn up and will be given effect to as soon as possible. We are now in possesion of a comprehensive list of the smaller irrigation needs of each district. After these have been examined, we hope to take them up gradually according to the funds that will be available. We have commenced the Bhairab project with the co-operation of the district board.

(At this stage the Hon'ble Minister having reached his time-limit resumed his seat.)

The motion of Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal that the demand of Rs. 34,14,000 for expenditure under "Irrigation" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Md. Abul Fazl that the demand of Rs. 34,14,000 for expenditure under "Irrigation" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Charu Chandra Roy that the demand of Rs. 34,14,000 for expenditure under "Irrigation" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Promatha Ranjan Thakur that the demand of Rs. 34,14,000 for expenditure under "Irrigation" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Kamalkrishna Roy that the demand of Rs. 34,14,000 for expenditure under "Irrigation" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Dhirendra Nath Datta that the demand of Rs. 34,14,000 for expenditure under "Irrigation" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Manoranjan Bannerjee that the demand of Rs. 34,14,000 for expenditure under "Irrigation" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Rai Harendra Nath Chaudhuri that the demand of Rs. 34,14,000 for expenditure under "Irrigation" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Iswar Chandra Mal that the demand of Rs. 34,14,000 for expenditure under "Irrigation" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Patiram Roy that the demand of Rs. 34,14,000 for expenditure under "Irrigation" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. B. Mukherjee (which was originally tabled by Mr. Promatha Nath Banerjee) that the demand of Rs. 34,14,000 for expenditure under "Irrigation" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The original demand of the Hon'ble Maharaja Srischandra Nandy, of Cossimbazar, that a sum of Rs. 34,14,000 be granted for expenditure under the heads "XVII, etc.—Irrigation" was then put and agreed to.

Additional holiday for the days preceding and following the Easter holidays.

Mr. SPEAKER: Before I proceed with the Civil Works Budget, I would just like to mention one matter on which the Hon'ble Sir Nazimuddin may make a statement when it will suit him. As I anticipate this session is likely to continue for a pretty long time, it would be convenient to the members of this House if the day before and the day after the Easter holidays are granted as holidays. This suggestion has been made to me by different sections of the House.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Sir: already we have had too many holidays and there are again going to be holidays. Besides the Eastern holidays, the 14th, 15th and 16th April will be holidays for Chaitra Sankranti, etc., and there is also a chance of our not being able to sit during the last week of April in connection with the Water Hyacinth Week, when we expect members to go out in that connection.

50—Civil Works and 81—Civil Works not charged to Revenue.

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 1,50,78,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "50—Civil Works" and "81—Civil Works not charged to Revenue."

Mr. SUKUMAR DUTTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to move that the demand for civil works be reduced by Rs. 100 to censure the Government policy regarding civil works and its road policy in particular.

Sir, in the Budget Statement we are told that the total cost of the road development schemes in Bengal would be 39 crores. It will swallow up the entire revenues of this province for three years.

And the cost of maintenance of these roads will be, as estimated by the Government, a crore of rupees every year. The Government of

Bengal has at present a sum of Rs. 28 lakhs a year ear-marked for road construction and maintenance—14 lakhs from the Motor Vehicles Tax and 14 lakhs also from the Central Petrol Duty. So for maintaining the roads that are being built, other things being equal, the provincial Government and the local bodies will have to find in future, an additional 72 lakhs of rupees a year. Sir, so inelastic are the revenues of local bodies, that it would be foolish to expect that they would be able to pay for the upkeep of the roads that are being built to-day. And so almost the entire financial burden and responsibility for both construction as well as maintenance of these roads will lie on the provincial Government. We have also to recognise that—what with top-heavy administration on the one hand and with inelastic revenues on the other, and with large and quite legitimate claims of primary education and public health yet unsatisfied in the main—this province would find it difficult, if not impossible, to pay these huge road bills.

Sir, I am not arguing against road development in Bengal. Indeed, my case is that not sufficient is being done for road development—our resources are limited but our needs are many. We have to make the best use of our limited resources, and we have to look to the needs of the community first. We cannot afford any extravagance or waste, or any unintelligent or unscrupulous handling of our road policy.

My contention, Sir, is that the road policy of the Government is being dictated by non-Indian vested interests—that this policy has worked in a manner which subordinates the interests of European merchants and monopolists and to the demands of the police, military and the civil administration in Bengal.

Sir, on paper, they give the outside public the impression—and a very misleading impression it is—that the road policy of the Government is based on a comprehensive survey and report by an expert and that the Road or Communication Board in Bengal which decides road questions on the basis of these reports is an impartial body which represents all interests.

Sir, Mr. A. J. King's report which forms the basis of the road development programme is quite a voluminous report, whose printing alone has cost us near about a lakh. It is extremely verbose, devoid of substance and packed with unnecessary details and materials. Mr. King judges the urgency or importance of road project by the test of a traffic census.

Sir, it is well known that traffic depends on facilities of communication and a mechanical traffic census is surely no index of the needs of a district or a subdivision—it is no index of the needs of any social or economic unit—where traffic may have been hampered in the past because of poor road facilities provided due to the neglect of an indifferent and step-motherly Government.

Sir, past neglect is certainly a poor justification for continued neglect in the future. And a traffic census in this sense is a faulty basis of assessing the claims of road development in "distressed" and neglected areas. It should have been done by a careful social and economic survey instead of by a mere mechanical traffic census.

Sir, from a mere traffic census, it would be made to appear that motor traffic in the Dooars and in the hill-roads in Darjeeling district is very much more than in any other mufassal district of Bengal. But that by itself would not justify the continuance of preferential treatment of Darjeeling and the Dooars because of the European interests involved. But there is no reason why the more urgent claims of roads in other parts of Bengal should be neglected.

So, a mere mechanical test, based on past wrongs, surely should be no index of our future development either.

To-day we are being called upon to foot this enormous road bill for 39 crores—and a crore, in addition, every year for the maintenance of these roads. But for whose benefit, Sir—for the benefit of the people—no. Roads, besides their importance to us, are also important to British industry and trade, and they have also important strategic values. These have been made clear to us in Mr. King's report, when he says: The scheme provides for the connection by road of the district headquarters and the headquarters of all subdivisions. Direct road connection has also been provided to *thana* headquarters, while *thana* headquarters, which could not be immediately directly connected, will be within five miles of an improved road, which will make it easy, as he says, for a short connecting link to be added at a later stage.

Sir, from this it must be obvious to you that to British Imperialism and its agents in Bengal, the district headquarters, the subdivisional headquarters, the *thanas*, and the European localities, with their trade interests, are all that matter.

Sir, the needs of the police and the military override the needs and interests of the people. And for this tightening of this political and economic bondage you have to pay 39 crores of rupees now, and 1 crore every year for all time hereafter.

Sir, the Hon'ble Minister may disclaim that he has any such dishonourable intentions or designs, but we, on this side of the House, would require facts to be convinced. And what are the facts?

There is no doubt, Sir, that he acts on the advice of the Communications Board—the old Road Board—whose constitution, on paper seems innocuous, although I do say, even on paper its constitution is far from desirable. My friend Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal is a member of that Board and as such he knows a lot about the ways and doings of that Board.

On paper, Sir, the Board, which advises the Ministry on road policy and development, appears to represent the interests of trade, commerce, industry, and railways, which are affected by road projects. Yet, in practice, we find it packed by men with their own ends to serve, and I look in vain, Sir, for the representatives of the peasants and workers of Bengal, who form the bulk of the community, and who would have to bear, by far the largest part of the burden of expenditure on roads in this province.

I find there, Sir, on the Road Board members who belong to such concerns as the Burmah Shell, the Dunlop Rubber Tyre and Co., and the Bengal-Nagpur Railway. All these firms have their own ends to serve through the road policy. The Burmah Shell are not merely interested in the sale of motor spirit and lubricants, but are also interested through their firm, as contractors and suppliers of the Communications Department, in the road policy.

Sir, only the other day, Sir George Campbell, the Leader of the European Group in this House, when speaking on the Calcutta Municipal (Amendment) Bill, referred to the need of reform of the Calcutta Corporation. Sir, let him start with reforming his own men. Sir, can any person, with any sense of honesty or propriety left in him, have anything to do with the direction and control of the policy and affairs of a department in which he and his firm is a supplier and contractor?

Sir, it is an outrage on our public life and character, and the sooner it is ended the better. Sir, in the pre-Reform days there was the back-door influence—the influence through one's clubs and free masonries. But now it has come to this, Sir, that contractors are sitting at the same table with our Ministers and representatives and dictating what roads are to be built and how——

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the motion standing in my name, viz., that the demand of Rs. 1,50,78,000 for expenditure under the head "50—Civil Works" and "81—Civil Works not charged to Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion on the failure to utilize fully the current year's budgeted amounts, specially for the construction of roads and bridges, and to criticise generally the delay in the progress of road development in the province.

Sir, within the short period available, I would only concentrate on certain specific and direct complaints and some practical hints or suggestions.

Sir, I find from a study of the budget and particularly of the Red Book as well as the detailed information in the Civil Budget Estimates

that undue emphasis has been given during the last few years to buildings rather than to road development which, as you are aware, Sir, is the crying need of the province. From a study of the figures, I find that the total grant under "Civil Works" amounts to Rs. 1,59,28,000 this year; last year a sum of Rs. 1,20,00,000 was provided. The amount allotted for "Original Works" and "Repair of Buildings" comes up to Rs. 69,57,000 and for "Communications" only Rs. 32,26,000, and even out of this amount whereas under "Original Works—Buildings" Government have provided this year Rs. 41,64,000 and under "Repairs" Rs. 26,83,000 making a total of about 70 lakhs, they have provided under "Communications" only Rs. 13,89,000 and under "Repairs", Rs. 18,37,000, so that for new works they can spend only Rs 13,89,000 this year as provided for in the budget. This amount again includes Rs. 6,10,000 for Sevoke-Bagrakote, Rs. 54,000 for the Jhikargacha bridge, Rs. 2 lakhs and odd for the Comilla-Daudkandi road and Rs. 2,14,000 for the Cossye bridge. I am afraid that all these amounts cannot be fully spent even if the department makes the best of efforts during the coming year, so that it is again the method of allotment that is largely responsible for the existing state of affairs; and Government know it full well and the department also knows full well that Government will not be in a position to utilize the money fully.

So far as the road fund balance-sheet is concerned, I have taken much pains to draw up one, with a view to find out the total amount that is going to be spent by the Government of Bengal including the amounts obtainable from the Government of India and the corresponding receipts on account of the different road projects. I find, on making a balance-sheet out of the figures supplied, that Government propose to spend on "Original Works—Communications" Rs. 13,89,000 under their own direction, that is to say, on road works carried out by the department itself. For "Repairs—Communications" as I have stated already, Government have provided Rs. 18,37,000; for "Special Establishment and Miscellaneous", Government have allotted Rs. 5 lakhs on road account, and they further propose to have "Grant-in-aid for Communications proper" to the extent of Rs. 36 lakhs, i.e., Rs. 41 lakhs when taken along with the grant for "Special Establishment and Miscellaneous." Thus the provisions for expenditure under the different heads on road works make a total of Rs. 73,26,000. As against this, we find that the subventions from the Central Road Fund are likely to yield Rs. 29,61,000; toll on roads Rs. 44,000; the Government of India grant for rural development Rs. 1,20,000; grant from public bodies Rs. 20,000; and the net receipts from the Motor Vehicles Tax Acts Rs. 17,00,000, making up a total of Rs. 48,45,000. If we calculate the difference between the provisions for expenditure under different heads and the amounts obtainable from different sources, we shall find that the Government

of Bengal have provided from out of the provincial revenues only Rs. 24,81,000 for "Communications." That is the contribution that the Provincial Government propose to make for "Communications."

That being the position, Sir, I submit that it would be an extremely difficult proposition for Government to ensure proper development of roads in the province from the point of view of Mr. King's report. Even taking up construction of only trunk roads which Mr. King suggests should cover 2,100 miles, and even assuming that the average expenditure per mile for such construction would be between Rs. 25,000 and Rs. 50,000 as Mr. King has worked out, or Rs. 30,000 per mile on an average, the expenditure works out at Rs. 6,30,00,000 for trunk roads alone. I submit that if the Government of Bengal are going to provide Rs. 40,00,000 or so in all for road construction and maintenance and they set apart for repairs Rs. 16 to 20 lakhs a year as at present—in any case they will not have more than Rs. 20 lakhs available a year—for construction of new roads. At this rate we will take nearly 32 years even to complete the trunk road system—not to speak of village roads, though good roads are very much wanted in rural areas. We must, therefore, have a scheme that will make it possible to see roads constructed within our lifetime. I shall submit a constructive suggestion from our side, if that is heeded. I suggest that, so far as new projects go, we have got Mr. King's report. Rightly or wrongly, he has given some labour to this question and has produced a voluminous report. I must congratulate my friend Mr. Sukumar Dutta that he has rightly characterised the report as containing too much of verbose material with very little of real thing to go on with. As a matter of fact, I drew the attention of the House to this fact long ago. I would go further and say that throughout Mr. King has been misguided and misdirected. There is perhaps only one chapter in the whole report which Mr. King himself wrote, and as regards the other chapters he simply asked his clerks to fill in the gaps. I may take this matter up later on. What I now want to emphasize is the urgency of adopting a new policy regarding road financing——

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Mr. GEORGE MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, last year I levelled a criticism on the department of my honourable friend, the Minister in charge of Irrigation. This year I have no severe criticism to make. As a matter of fact, I am prepared to congratulate the department on certain matters that took place since last year. But, Sir, as regards the policy of the Government at the moment we are in the dark as to what policy Government intends to pursue regarding road programme for the future.

The last volume, i.e., Volume VII of Mr. King's report, is not yet in our hands and until his conclusions are known, it is difficult to envisage the lines on which Government are likely to make up their minds as to the policy to be pursued. In this connection I would like to draw Government's attention to the fact that a Standing Committee on Roads was appointed last year. I am a member of that committee but so far no meeting has been called. I would like to know in what way Government intend to utilize the services of this committee——

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Nobody knows anything about that committee.

Mr. GEORGE MORGAN: I am not speaking to you. I am speaking to the Speaker and through him to the Hon'ble Minister. You should keep quiet.

Dr. Sanyal has given various figures, and I will enlarge on that particular point. I find that schemes outstanding from the previous programme amount to nearly 40 lakhs of rupees, and that new schemes have been approved recently by the Government of India amounting to some 52 lakhs of rupees—a total of 92 lakhs. Figures show that the total programme approved against provincial allocation amounts to Rs. 249·36 lakhs. This will absorb the accumulated balance and the Provincial Government's future revenue from the Road Fund to the end of September, 1944. That is the present position of schemes and cost.

There is a general idea that the Provincial Board of Communications is unable to find projects upon which the grants from the Petrol Tax can be spent. The following figures, showing the present situation, should dissipate such an idea:—

	Rs.
Estimated cost of the work still to be done on works-in-progress	56,00,000
Estimated cost of projects to be commenced next financial year	39,00,000
Estimated cost of projects passed by the Provincial Board of Communications and awaiting the approval of the Government of India ...	1,49,00,000
In addition there is the Damodar Bridge project estimated to cost approximately ...	30,00,000

A total of nearly 2 crores. To finance this programme, the province's credit on the 1st April, 1939 is likely to be 48 lakhs with an annual subvention of 15 lakhs or so.

Then, Sir, with regard to this programme and the probable policy of the Government, I would like to point out that in all the programmes put forward I do not find that Government has provided for what I consider most necessary in Bengal, viz., Feeder Roads to Railway Stations and River Ghats. We have a network of railways in this province and also two main systems of transport, viz., the rivers Brahmaputra, and the Meghna, not to speak of smaller rivers where steamers ply. It is therefore necessary for the satisfactory transport of produce and goods that there should be as many feeder roads as possible to enable produce and goods to be transported between villages and the main transport facilities, i.e., railways and rivers. The Central Government Roads Committee, of which I was a member for some years, turned down the proposal that expenditure on feeder roads should not exceed a maximum of 25 per cent. of the total programme of expenditure. I objected strongly to this proposal as Bengal requires a larger proportion of feeder roads than trunk and main roads. The statutory obligation was dropped. Care must be taken to align feeder roads in such a way as not to impede the north and south flow of water. I trust Government will give particular attention to this matter and have a consultation with the Advisory Committee on Roads as soon as possible.

Then, Sir, I want to draw Government's attention to the question of establishment. It has been suggested that there should be a body separate from the Public Works Department to carry out road construction, but, in my opinion this would not be at all satisfactory and would entail considerable expenditure. What we require is that the Public Works Department Road staff should be on a permanent basis and there should be an increase in the supervising staff. Supervision is what is required first and foremost, as the actual work is carried out by contractors. The Public Works Department could probably so arrange their establishment that the roads part of the Public Works Department would be more self-contained and have sufficient permanent staff.

There is one other matter I desire to draw attention to and that is the question of audit arrangements. My experience of the Audit Department everywhere, not only in Bengal, is that the application of the audit rules entails much time spent in answering questions of the auditors which are directed more to finding fault with departments than to assisting them. We therefore require urgently a simplification of the audit rules and possibly a reversion to the old system of having a separate Audit Department for the Public Works Department, and the Accountant-General might be asked to organise a special department for the purpose, if possible.

I hope Government will have the maps published as soon as possible so that when Volume VII of Mr. King's report is received it will be easy to follow his conclusions.

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: I am very thankful to my friend, Mr. Morgan, for his helpful remarks regarding the road policy of Government and also for the figures which he has been good enough to place before the House about the ultimate expenditure of Government for completing the schemes which have been undertaken and also for those which will be taken up in the coming year. Sir, I am sorry I have no time to refer to the useful points he has placed before the House.

As regards the question of feeder roads, as you know, Sir, there is a difference of opinion about its definition. The definition of the Government of India is different from what we usually give it. According to the Government of India stipulation we are to construct not less than 25 per cent. of feeder roads. Under the circumstances, we can go on increasing them to any percentage we like. I admit that hitherto there has been no clear-cut policy for road development and the explanation of this is that we had been so long awaiting the issue of Mr. King's report. Six volumes of that report have now been published and I hope the seventh will be in the hands of the members at an early date. In the seventh volume, Mr. King has made certain recommendations which have received the preliminary consideration of Government, and I shall certainly note the request to see that the maps are also made available early as I can well imagine that without the maps it is impossible to follow the report. Our provincial conclusions on which we propose to consult the Provincial Board of Communications are that we should complete the Road Fund schemes that are now in progress and those for which the House has been asked to provide funds for next year. We shall also take up as soon as possible a programme of constructing or improving to modern standard roads which are required for the easier transport of agricultural produce to suitable markets and roads which will serve as feeders to railway stations and steamer ghats. We propose to spread the work over as wide an area as possible so that there may be little cause for complaint that certain districts are deriving no benefit from the fund. At the same time, we shall have to keep in mind such considerations as the existence of other means of communication and the amount of traffic which is likely to be expected.

Sir, I cannot agree with Mr. Dutt that there is no use for traffic census. If he had previous discussion with Dr. Sanyal, I am sure he would have convinced him otherwise. I think that the amount of traffic to be expected is a very important consideration, and I feel that the House will agree that it would not be justifiable to spend money on a road for which there is not likely to be much traffic.

We must not neglect the areas in which there are fairly satisfactory means of communication, if there is the possibility of an increase of road traffic, and a consequent increase of revenue from tax on petrol.

I have said that we propose to spread the work as much as possible, but in doing so we intend to keep in mind the desirability of having a system of provincial roads; and our aim will be to do as much work as we can on roads which can ultimately be linked up into a system serving inter-district and provincial, and not merely local, needs.

Dr. Sanyal has dealt with a number of figures. I do not think I need go into them at this late hour. As regards building scheme that he has mentioned, I admit that, judging from the things as they stand and for reasons over which we have no control, it may not be possible to complete all the works which have been provided for in the budget.

(At this stage the Hon'ble Minister having reached his time-limit resumed his seat.)

The motion of Mr. Sukumar Dutta that the demand for a sum of Rs. 1,50,78,000 for expenditure under the head "50—Civil Works" and "81—Civil Works not charged to Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal that the demand for a sum of Rs. 1,50,78,000 for expenditure under the head "50—Civil Works" and "81—Civil Works not charged to Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The original demand of the Hon'ble Maharaja Srischandra Nandy, of Cossimbazar, that a sum of Rs. 1,50,78,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "50—Civil Works" and "81—Civil Works not charged to Revenue" was then put and agreed to.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned till 4-15 p.m. on Friday, the 24th March, 1939, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Friday, the 24th March, 1939, at 4-15 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. AZIZUL HAQUE, C.I.E.) in the Chair, 11 Hon'ble Ministers and 218 members.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

(to which oral answers were given)

Sixty per cent. of appointments to Muslims.

*258. **Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN (Mymensingh):** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Appointment) Department be pleased to state when the question of 60 per cent. appointment of Muslims as passed in the last Assembly Session is likely to be brought into force in the offices?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ (on behalf of the Minister in charge of the Home Department): The matter is under consideration and Government expect to be able to announce a decision very soon.

Mr. PRAMATHA RANJAN THAKUR: During the last session at the time when that resolution was passed the Hon'ble Minister said that a Conference would be called and that the question would be decided—the question of communal ratio in the public services. Was that Conference called and the question decided?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: The Conference was called and we have had several sittings and because it was not possible to get a day from the Leader of the Congress Party, the delay has taken place.

Mr. SHAHEDALI: In the answer it is said, "that the Government expect to be able to announce a decision very soon." May I know whether it would be decided in the Easter holidays?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: It all depends upon the date which would be suitable to Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose.

Tangail-Mymensingh Road improvement project.

*259. **Mr. AMRITA LAL MANDAL:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works Department be pleased to state what is the present position of the project for the improvement of the Tangail-Mymensingh Road?

(*b*) Are the Government considering the desirability of expediting its completion?

MINISTER in charge of the COMMUNICATIONS and WORKS DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Maharaja Srischandra Nandy, of Cossimbazar): Bridges between Mymensingh and Kalihati have been brought up to modern standards at a cost of Rs. 3,61,831. Bridging of the section between Kalihati and Tangail is now in progress. It is not intended to bridge at present the Kalihati and Pauli rivers.

The improvement of the road surface was approved by the Government of India at the end of last September and work on the section between Muktagacha and Gabtali (8 miles) has been commenced. Government intend to press on with the completion of the road, and expect that over Rs. 2 lakhs will be spent during the current year. In next year's budget provision has been made for Rs. 2 lakhs for bridges and Rs. 3 lakhs for improving the road.

Tangi-Tangail-Pingna Railway Project.

*260. **Mr. AMRITA LAL MANDAL:** (*a*) With reference to the reply to clauses (*c*) and (*e*) of starred question No. 190 in this Assembly on the 11th March, 1938, will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works Department be pleased to state whether the Public Health Committee has submitted their report by now with regard to the Tangi-Pingna *via* Tangail Railway Project?

(*b*) If the report has been submitted, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) what action are the Government going to take on the report; and

(*ii*) whether the Government contemplate any other alignment?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: (*a*) and (*b*) (*i*) A report on the Tangi-Tangail portion has been submitted and is now under the consideration of Government.

(*ii*) North of Tangail three possible alignments have to be considered, viz.:—

Tangail-Pingna;

Tangail-Mymensingh;

Tangail-Singhjani.

Elected and nominated members of District Board, Khulna, and Satkhira Local Board, Khulna.

*261. **Mr. PATIRAM ROY:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state—

(i) the total number of the elected as well as the total number of the nominated members in the District Board of Khulna;

(ii) the total number of the elected as well as the total number of the nominated members in the Satkhira Local Board, Khulna, showing the same, thana by thana?

(b) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware—

(i) that the area and the population of Shamnagar police-station are 176 square miles and 97,354 respectively; and

(ii) that the area and population of Satkhira police-station are 141 square miles and 104,150 respectively?

(c) If the answer to (b) is in the affirmative, are the Government considering the desirability of increasing the total number of the members of the Shamnagar police-station (Satkhira) in the Satkhira Local Board by three in proportion to its area and population as compared with that of the Satkhira police-station?

MINISTER in charge of the LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja Habibullah Bahadur, of Dacca): (a) A statement giving the information is laid on the table.

(b) (i) Yes.

(ii) The population and the area of the Satkhira police-station, excluding the municipal area, are 92,909 and 132 square miles, respectively.

(c) This is a matter for the Divisional Commissioner to consider under rule 19 of the Election Rules under the Local Self-Government Act and will be taken into consideration by him at the time of the next reconstitution of the Local Board in 1941.

Statement referred to in the reply to clause (a) of starred question No. 261.

(a) (i) *Khulna District Board—*

Number of elected members—20.

Number of nominated members—10.

(*ii*) *Satkhira Local Board*—

(1) Number of elected members thana by thana—

Satkhira	3
Kalaroa	2
Tala	3
Debhatta	1
Kaliganj	3
Shyamnagar	1
Assasuni	2
Total ...	15

(2) Number of nominated members—7.

(These members are not nominated thana by thana.)

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(answers to which were laid on the table)

Relief to the peasants of Serajganj subdivision.

80. Mr. MOHAMAD BARAT ALI: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department aware—

(*i*) that the *aus* and *aman* crops have been damaged in the Serajganj subdivision by the last flood;

(*ii*) that the seeds even have not been preserved;

(*iii*) that people of the subdivision have no seeds for the next harvest; and

(*iv*) that scarcity of food prevails throughout the subdivision?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, are the Government considering the desirability of distributing seeds, loan and further agricultural loans to the agriculturists of the subdivision at present?

MINISTER in charge of the REVENUE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Bijoy Prasad Singh Roy): (*a*) (*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) and (*iii*) Yes. As the *aus* and jute crops were seriously damaged by the floods, very few people have been able to keep stocks of seeds of these crops.

(*iv*) The poorest classes are in difficulty about food.

Some scarcity is apprehended from the beginning of *Baisakh* to the middle of *Asarh*.

(*b*) Government distributed Rs. 29,431 as seed loan in October, 1938.

In addition to this a sum of Rs. 3,30,133 was distributed as agricultural loans and a sum of Rs. 54,936 is in the process of distribution now as loans for jute and *aus* seeds.

Tenancy right on lands under the Faridpur Scheme.

91. Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: (*a*) With reference to the answers given to the supplementary questions to unstarred question No. 12 given on the 16th February, 1938, will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture and Veterinary Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that lands under the Faridpur Scheme were given to the trained youths with the assurance that tenancy rights would be given to them?

(*b*) Is it a fact that Bijoy Kumar Pal Sarkar, one of those youths, was granted 25 *bighas* of land in 1930 which he developed?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the said Bijoy Kumar, while developing and cultivating those lands for some years, was arrested under the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act?

(*d*) Is it a fact—

(*i*) that after his arrest his brother was looking after those lands and the standing crops produced by the said Bijoy Kumar; but

(*ii*) that the Government confiscated those crops and resettled those lands with third parties?

(*e*) Is it a fact that after his release from detention in 1937 the said Bijoy Kumar applied to the District Magistrate of Faridpur and also to Government for restoration of his lands and also for compensation for the loss of his crops?

(*f*) Has any inquiry as promised in reply on the 16th February, 1938, been made?

(*g*) Are the Government considering the desirability of—

(*i*) restoring the lands formerly held by him; or

(*ii*) giving him the same quantity of Government lands elsewhere; and

(*iii*) also granting him an amount of money to start afresh in life?

MINISTER in charge of the AGRICULTURE and VETERINARY DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Tamizuddin Khan): (*a*) The lands were allotted to the trained youths free of rent for the first three years

with a proviso that any attempt to let the lands in farm or *barga* would involve immediate cancellation of the provisional settlement. According to the scheme, an ordinary *raiyatwari* settlement is to be made on usual terms obtaining in Government estates in which the lands are situated, at the end of three years provided satisfactory progress is made and prospects are promising.

(*b*) Bejoy Kumar Pal Sarkar, one of the youths of the second batch, was allotted 19 *bighas* and 16 *cottas* of land which he cultivated for some time.

(*c*) Bejoy Kumar Pal Sarkar was arrested under the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act before completing three years' provisional occupation.

(*d*) (*i*) His brother Basanta Kumar Pal Sarkar filed a petition on the 20th March, 1935, before the then Collector, praying for permission to take away the existing crops from the lands of Bejoy Kumar Pal Sarkar and also for extension of the term of the leare. He was permitted to stay on till the end of April, 1935, and directed to vacate after taking away the existing crop. On the 22nd April, 1935, Basanta Kumar Pal Sarkar filed another petition praying for extension of the lease till September, 1935, and also for exemption from payment of the loan granted to his brother Bejoy Kumar Pal Sarkar. Both his prayers were rejected.

(*ii*) Government did not confiscate or take the standing crops, but resettled the land to another trained youth after the removal of the crops and upon cancellation of the lease of Bejoy Kumar Pal Sarkar.

(*e*) An application was received by the Collector but not by Government.

(*f*) Yes. The figures Rs. 565 and Rs. 377-8 in column 6 of the statement referred to in the answer to clauses (*iii*) to (*vi*) of unstarred question No. 12 by Dr. H. C. Mookerjee to which an answer was given on the 16th February, 1938, represented total collection of loans from all the youths of the first and third batches, respectively, up to the 17th November, 1937. It will be noted that there were 5 youths in each batch. The amount advanced to each batch was therefore Rs. 1,000.

(*g*) (*i*) It is not possible now to restore the lands formerly held by him since they have already been allotted to another youth of the sixth batch, who is in possession of the land.

(*ii*) and (*iii*) No.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he has recently received an application from Bijoy Kumar Pal Sarkar?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Yes, Sir.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he considers the desirability of looking up his case and settling some lands with him from some other area belonging to the khas mahal?

Mr. SPEAKER: How does that question arise?

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: My question arises in this way. My question was (*g*) "Are the Government considering the desirability of (*i*) restoring the lands formerly held by him or (*ii*) giving him the same quantity of Government lands elsewhere"?

Mr. SPEAKER: You have never stated whether his petition refers to this.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: So I asked the Hon'ble Minister whether he had received an application from him. He said that he had. Now, I am asking him whether he will consider the desirability of looking up his case and granting him some lands from some other area belonging to Government?

Mr. SPEAKER: That has been answered definitely in the negative.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Now that Government have got his petition they may consider it.

Mr. SPEAKER: As if that was the only thing that stood in the way.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: May I expect an answer from the Hon'ble Minister?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: That is under consideration.

Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state in how many cases these lessees, I mean these youths, let out their lands to other persons?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: I cannot exactly give the number of cases but there have been some cases.

Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what was the training imparted to these young men before they were given lands by this Government?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: These young men were given training at the Agricultural Farm, Faridpur.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

8—Provincial Excise.

The Hon'ble Mr. PRASANNA DEB RAIKUT: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 20,58,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "8—Provincial Excise".

Sir, at the outset I may inform the House that the Central Government are going to take over the salt administration from our hands with effect from the 1st April, 1939. We requested them to revise their decision, but we have been informed that they are not going to do it. I should like to take this opportunity to inform the House about the policy regarding prohibition. It was announced by the Hon'ble the Chief Minister that the ultimate goal of the Excise Policy is total prohibition. With this object in view prohibition of alcoholic beverages was enforced in the district of Noakhali from the beginning of the current year. All the liquor shops were closed, and it is difficult to say even now what the result is. But we are carefully studying the results. The experience of Noakhali will be utilised in preparing the future scheme of prohibition. It is needless for me to say that prohibition cannot be introduced at a moment's notice all over the province, and I hope the House will quite appreciate this. The House may be assured that whatever may be the Government's policy, they are giving their best thought to the matter and will not hesitate to extend prohibition gradually to other districts if it is advisable and feasible. But at the same time it must be admitted that the financial implications involved in the adoption of the policy of total prohibition have seriously to be considered. This department contributes no less than one crore and fifty lakhs to the exchequer, and there are demands for nation-building activities from all quarters, and therefore total prohibition, in my opinion, it is impossible to adopt at the present moment. If we want to adopt total prohibition, now it will be a very dangerous thing to the social and administrative life of the province.

It will be interesting to the hon'ble members when I say that a comparative study of the figures for the years 1936-37 and 1937-38 of the four major provinces indicates that the excise revenue of Bengal

is the lowest although the population in the province is the highest. Now, in Madras the exise revenue was Rs. 4,01,91,319 in 1937-38; Bombay—Rs. 3,22,66,332; United Provinces—Rs. 1,57,42,585, both in 1936-37; and Bengal—Rs. 1,54,91,201 in 1937-38. It has been found that there has been a perceptible fall in the consumption of excisable articles in Bengal since 1911-12. The fall is as follows:—

	1911-12.	1926-27.	1937-38.
(1) Country spirit (L. P. Gallons)	7,96,784	6,27,962	5,39,253
(2) Ganja (seers)	1,24,683	67,678	33,493
(3) Bhang (seers)	32,691	16,299	8,875
(4) Charas (seers)	1,599	2,578	771
(5) Opium (seers)	66,783	39,792	26,190

The fall in the consumption of country-spirit is about 32 per cent. and that of *ganja* and *bhang* about 75 per cent. The fall in the consumption of *charas* has been 50 per cent. and of opium 60 per cent. compared with the figures of 1911-12.

The present Government have been maintaining the policy of "minimum consumption with maximum revenue" which is built upon the prolonged experience of previous Governments. While permitting consumption in moderation, the present policy imposes the following restrictions which serve the cause of temperance by limiting consumption to the minimum requirements:—

(1) Levy of a sliding scale of rates of taxation on liquor and drugs with adequate and suitable regulations to control prices for the consumers.

(2) Gradual reduction in the number of places of vend.

(3) Effective control over manufacture and retail sale.

(4) Regulations and gradual restriction of the hours of sale.

In pursuance of the policy of "maximum revenue with maximum consumption" the rates of excise taxation have always been higher than those in other provinces.

I hope I have convinced the House that the activities of the department have been directed towards the policy of prohibition, and I hope that the House will give the Government sufficient time to work out the details of the scheme.

Mr. BIRENDRA NATH MAZUMDAR: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 20,58,000 for expenditure under the head "29—Provincial Excise" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about Government's failure to initiate the policy of prohibition.

In doing so, Sir, I beg first to notice from the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Excise what he has just said. These two years we have been told that this House stands definitely committed to a policy of total prohibition. The commitment went to the extent of saying to the following effect: "Speaking as a Mussalman I believe it to be my ambition to attain total prohibition, and as a servant of the people also I am not worth my salt if I do not try to carry out the mandate of this House." And this pledge which is almost skin to an oath was amply implemented or supplemented by the Hon'ble the Finance Minister when he said on a previous occasion that the question of revenue must be subordinated to the question of prohibition. To-day we are told that the Ministers must be very cautious because it yields a revenue of 1½ crores. Therefore, Sir, this is what we have gained in spite of the solemn promise given to the House at the end of two years of the present administration. I do not think that the Hon'ble Ministers should congratulate themselves on this. Now, it has been said that this revenue was very great in the year 1911-12 and that thereafter it considerably decreased. Here, Sir, the Hon'ble Minister has forgotten one thing, viz., the reason why it so decreased. If we consider the figures, without troubling too much on the point, we shall find that the total revenue from Excise in the year 1920-21 was Rs. 1 crore and 96½ lakhs, but it fell down to Rs. 1 crore and 83 lakhs in the next year, and the reason is perfectly clear because next year the non-co-operation movement was started, and the Congress tried its best to reduce the amount of income from this source by reducing the consumption of drugs. It is well known, Sir, what steps the then Government adopted to quell this movement and to increase the revenue from this source. From the next year onward there was a sharp rise in the revenue till 1929-30, when it came to the appalling figure of about 2 crores and 26½ lakhs. The very next year the Civil Disobedience Movement was started by the Congress and one of the main plans of the Congress during that movement was prohibition. The result was that the revenue at once came down to 1 crore and 80 lakhs in 1931, and in the next year, i.e., in 1932, it came down to 1 crore and 39 lakhs. This level was maintained up to the time when the movement was stopped, so that up to the year 1936-37, i.e., right up to the end of the old bureaucratic rule, we find that the revenue was only 1 crore and 34 lakhs. Compared with the revenue of 1929-30, it would appear that there was a fall of quite a crore of rupees under this head. Now this demonstrated that the Congress propaganda and its sacrifice towards the achievement of the goal of prohibition had so impressed the people that, in spite of the best or worst efforts of the then Government, the revenue from this disgraceful source could not be raised to its pristine glory. It remained to our popular Government, who are wedded to the doctrine of prohibition, to raise the revenue from this source from 1 crore and 34 lakhs in 1936-37 to 1 crore

and 57 lakhs in 1938-39. If we go on in this way, we can well anticipate what will follow. And if we are to go on by our present budget figure, we find that we can expect to have a revenue of 1 crore 57 lakhs. That shows that the Hon'ble Ministers have practically set their faces against a policy of prohibition. It proves to a demonstration that if the Congress had been allowed by the Government to have their own way, it would have, without costing the Government a single farthing, except the revenue itself, made prohibition an accomplished fact by this time. Given the opportunity it may well offer to do it even to-day.

Now, the Hon'ble Minister told us about a reduction of revenue from this source, but if we look at the figures we shall find that it was 1 crore 34 lakhs in 1936, and to-day it is 1 crore 57 lakhs. It will be found from the red as well as the green books that there has been all round increase in the revenue received from the sale of country spirit, country liquor, opium and *bhang*. Furthermore, Sir, there is also an increase—an appreciable increase I should say—under the head "Licensing fee". That would show that, in spite of experiment of prohibition in the district of Noakhali, no reduction has been made in the number of excise shops. Probably, I do not understand the excise policy of Government, but the Hon'ble Minister himself said that they were watching the experiment at Noakhali and so they were not in a position to say now to what extent the people have been benefited, but this much I can say that even if there had been any appreciable reduction in the sale of liquor at Noakhali, it must have been more than compensated by the opening of new shops in other districts.

I make another charge against the Hon'ble Ministers which the Hon'ble Ministers must refute if they want their good names to be preserved. The charge is not made by me, but it was made only the other day by the Hon'ble Mr. Bodhram Dube, Minister of Excise, Orissa. He stated categorically that the Government of Bengal is purposely reducing the price of opium by half in the districts adjoining Balasore with the intention of—I want the Hon'ble Ministers to mark the words—with the intention of attracting the people of Balasore to take opium when the Government of Orissa is pursuing the policy of opium prohibition. (Cries of "Shame, shame" from Congress Benches.) There cannot be, Sir, a stronger indictment of the policy of a Government calling itself civilized than this. We are not doing anything ourselves towards the achievement of the goal of prohibition; but thwarting in this way what a sister province, a poor neighbouring province, is doing is not playing the game! I should think, and I hope, that the Hon'ble Minister will be in a position to refute truly and successfully this serious charge.

Now, with regard to the facility with which we can introduce prohibition, I shall make a few suggestions as regards what has fallen from the Hon'ble Minister from time to time. The Hon'ble the

Finance Minister said that in Bengal 60 per cent. of the excise revenue came from Calcutta and the surrounding industrial areas. We may, therefore, take it for granted that the main source of this revenue being centred round Calcutta and its suburbs, the vigilance cost to effect prohibition would not be very great. But if this work be handed over to the Congress, the cost may be reduced to a minimum.

If Government were not minded to take up prohibition all at once for the whole of Bengal, they might very well leave Calcutta and its suburbs for this year and start prohibition in the rest of Bengal which consumes only 40 per cent. of the excise articles.

The Hon'ble the Finance Minister further tells us that in the rural areas of Bengal one country spirit shop serves an average area of 120 square miles while in Bombay and Bihar it serves 46 square miles.

This shows how much easier it is to introduce prohibition in at least the rural areas in Bengal. Where one shop serves 120 square miles the people in that area will not miss it so much and there cannot be much fear of illicit distillation. We may, therefore, begin prohibition in at least the whole of Bengal from this year *minus* Calcutta and its suburbs.

The Finance Minister further told us that in the Dacca Division one shop serves 179 square miles and in the Chittagong Division as many as 280 square miles. This being so, it is so very easy to try prohibition in at least these two divisions with an absolute chance of success and also without much dislocation of revenue. It is difficult to understand why, in the face of these patent facts, our Chief Minister should think of trying prohibition only in Noakhali and not throughout the Dacca and Chittagong Divisions, if it not be simply to hoodwink the people and the members of this House.

I am sorry to note also that after trying in Noakhali last year, the Hon'ble Minister is not holding out any hope that it will be tried elsewhere in the Province of Bengal. Now, our Ministers have developed an inferiority complex and whenever anything is said on the floor of this House, they at once come forward with the tell-tale story of what is happening in the Congress Provinces. We are busy with our own Bengal and not with the other Provinces. If the other provinces even choose to get drunk or drugged, that is no reason why we should do the same; and even if they were to do the same, can it be said that what these other provinces may be doing with their people who drink as much as six gallons of liquor per hundred of population would be enough for our Ministers who have to deal with a population who drink only half a gallon per hundred in a whole year? Is it not up to them to set an example to the other provinces at least in this sphere? Let them therefore take courage in both hands and taking advantage of the situation which has been created for them by the untold sufferings and sacrifices of thousands and thousands of people of Bengal and taking

advantage of this situation, make the cause of prohibition a success in this province and earn the blessings of the poor and the destitute for whom they have been shedding tons and tons of unprofitable and possibly insincere tears on the floor of this House. The House from the very beginning stood committed to this policy. We hoped at least they will give it a fair trial and, as I have already stated, at least, begin with the whole of the Province *minus* Calcutta and its suburbs. Sir, the loss of revenue will not be a tremendous one but the gain, if any, will be tremendous. The Hon'ble Minister has said that Rs. 1 crore and a half are spent now on the nation-building departments and therefore the nation-building departments will be deprived of this money if a serious trial in prohibition is started. May I tell the Hon'ble Minister that this question of prohibition is not a less important item of nation-building than any other nation-building activity? Let him try and he will find that this is possibly the foremost of the nation-building activities. Let him earn the blessings of the people by trial in this direction. There is no use increasing taxes after taxes and saying that they will do this or that but never touching the fringe of anything that may really benefit the people at large. With these words, I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

Mr. MAQBUL HOSAIN. Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 20,58,000 under the head "8—Provincial Excise" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the failure of Government to adopt the policy of prohibition in the Province.

মাননীয় সভাপতি সাহেব, বাংলার মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলী মাদক দ্রব্য নিবারণ করিবার জন্য বিহীত ব্যবস্থা অবলম্বন করিতে অসমর্থ হওয়ায় আমি অদ্য এই ছাটাই প্রস্তাব উত্থাপন করিতেছি। বাংলার মন্ত্রীসভাকে মুসলেম মন্ত্রীসভা নামে অভিহিত করতঃ প্রধান মন্ত্রী ধর্ম্মের ধুয়া তুলিয়া নিজের চাকুরী বজায় রাখার জন্য যে সাম্প্রদায়িকতার বীজ দেশময় ছড়াইতেছেন সেই তথাকথিত মুছলিম মন্ত্রী সভার নায়ক প্রধান মন্ত্রী মিঃ ফজলুল হককে কি আমরা জিজ্ঞাসা করিতে পারি যে, মদ, গাঁজা ইত্যাদি মাদক দ্রব্য খাওয়ার ব্যবস্থা করিয়াও ইহা কেমন করিয়া মুসলিম মন্ত্রী সভা হইল? দেশবাসীর পক্ষ হইতে প্রধান মন্ত্রীকে সাবধান করিয়া দিতেছি যে, ধর্ম্মের নামে এসব ছিনিমিনি খেলা আর বেশী দিন চলিবে না। দেশ ও জাতি যখন এসব বিষয় জানিবে ও বুঝিবে তখন ইহার কৈফিয়ত কড়ায় গণ্ডায় আদায় করিবে। মরণ পথের যাত্রী বৃদ্ধ মন্ত্রীর মুখ হইতে মদের প্রচলন রাখিয়া মদ খাওয়ার জন্য উৎসাহিত করার কথা বলা কত ঘৃণ্য ও জঘন্য তাহা দেশবাসী বিচার করিবেন।

মন্ত্রীদলের মৌলবীগণও মাদক দ্রব্য নিবারণের পক্ষপাতী নহেন। তাঁহাদের মধ্যে কেহ কেহ মদ, গাঁজা এককালে না উঠাইয়া আস্তে আস্তে উঠাইবার জন্য গভর্ণমেণ্টকে উপদেশ দিয়াছেন। ইছলাম প্রচারের প্রাথমিক যুগে মদ, গাঁজা খাওয়া আস্তে আস্তে রহিত করা হইয়াছিল বলিয়া যুক্তি প্রদর্শন করা হইয়াছে। কিন্তু আমি এ সমস্ত মৌলবী নামধারী ভণ্ডদিগকে জিজ্ঞাসা করি যে, কোরান সরিফের বা হাদিস সরিফের কোন পাতায় এই সকল পকেট ভারী করার যুক্তির কথা লিখা হইয়াছে। পয়গম্বর সাহেব বা প্রেরিত মহাপুরুষের হোশে ঐশী বাণী দ্বারা যখন যাহা করার নির্দ্দেশ দেওয়া হইত তখনই তাহা করা হইত। তাঁহারা স্বর্গীয় আদেশ ছাড়া কোন কিছু করেন

নাই। মদ, গাঁজা ইত্যাদি মাদক দ্রব্য পান করা ইছলাম ধর্ম্মমতে হারাম বা নিষেধ। মহাপুরুষ হজরত মহম্মদের পরলোক গমনের পর পয়গম্বরী যুগ চলিয়া গিয়াছে। কোরান, হাদিসে যে সমস্ত আদেশ নিষেধ আছে তাহা মুসলমান মাত্রকেই পালন করিতে হইবে।

Mr. SPEAKER. Order, order. I think, we have had enough of religious discussions. Will you kindly confine your discussion to a plane other than the religious plane, otherwise the debate will degenerate to such an extent that I do not know where it will end? Let the discussion be confined to administrative, political and economic aspects of the problem.

Maulvi ABUL HASHIM: On a point of information, Sir. Are we not allowed to say what Islam has said with regard to political and economic problems?

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid, Maulvi Abul Hashim should realise that this is a matter in which the other side has also got something to say, and do you desire that somebody will say in this House something which you yourself will not relish? Somebody will say that this is what Islam says and some other person will say that it is not. Do you not think that this will result in the degeneration of the debate? You should very carefully consider this: you are running a very dangerous risk to allow the legislature to bring in religious issues in a discussion like this.

Maulvi ABUL HASHIM: I think we have got a right to place the religious point of view on a particular matter.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, very generally, unless the House desires to create a most undesirable situation.

Mr. MAQBUL HOSAIN: মন্ত্রীভক্ত মৌলবীগণ আস্তে আস্তে মদ খাওয়া বন্ধ করার আদেশ কোন পয়গম্বরের নিকট হইতে পাইলেন? ধর্ম্মের নামে পয়গম্বরের নিকট হইতে পাইলেন? ধর্ম্মের নামে জাতিকে প্রতারিত করা আর কতদিন চলিবে?

সরকার পক্ষ হইতে আবগারী মন্ত্রীর সাফাইয়ে প্রকাশ যে, দেশী মদের কাটতি ক্রমশঃ কমিতেছে। মন্ত্রী মহাশয়ের বিবৃতির সহিত বাংলায় আবগারী কমিশনের রিপোর্ট পরীক্ষা করবার সুযোগ পাইয়াছি। উক্ত সরকারী রিপোর্ট নির্ভুল কি না তাহা আবগারী মন্ত্রী সত্য করিয়া বলুন। ১৯৩৩-৩৭ ইং সাল পর্য্যন্ত বাংলায় যে পরিমাণ দেশী মদ বিক্রয় হইয়াছে সরকারী রিপোর্ট হইতে তাহা উল্লেখ করিতেছি।

১৯৩৩-৩৪ সালে	..	..	২৪৬,২৪৬ গ্যালন।
১৯৩৪-৩৫ সালে	..	..	২৯৪,৬৬৫ গ্যালন এবং ৪৮,৪১৯ গ্যালন বৃদ্ধি।
১৯৩৫-৩৬ সালে	..	..	২৯৬,৩৯১ গ্যালন এবং ১,৭২৬ গ্যালন বৃদ্ধি।
১৯৩৬-৩৭ সালে	..	..	৩৩৪,৫৮৯ গ্যালন এবং ৩৮,১৯৮ গ্যালন বৃদ্ধি।

১৯০৪ সালের ১লা জুলাই হইতে শুল্ক হ্রাস হওয়ায় দেশী মদের কাটতি বাড়ে। পূর্ব্বকার আমলাতান্ত্রিক গভর্ণমেণ্টকে এই শুল্ক হ্রাসের জন্য দায়ী করা হইত। কিন্তু হক সাহেব যখন ১৯৩৭ইং সনে মন্ত্রীত্ব গ্রহণ করিলেন তখন ইহার প্রতিকার করিলেন না কেন? মন্ত্রীত্বের টোপির মাথায় পরিবার সুযোগ পাইলে মাদক দ্রব্য সম্পূর্ণরূপে নিবারণ করিবেন বলিয়া ভোটারদের নিকট প্রতিশ্রুতি দিয়াইত তিনি পাটুয়াখালীর ভোটযুদ্ধে স্যার নাজিমকে পরাজিত করিয়াছিলেন। সে সমস্ত কথা ভুলিয়া গিয়াছেন? রাজস্ব বৃদ্ধির জন্যই দেশী মদের মূল্য হ্রাস করা হইয়াছে এবং দরিদ্রতম ব্যক্তি যাহাতে মদ খাইতে পারে তজ্জন্য ইহা করা হইয়াছে। ১৯৩৫-৩৬ইং সন হইতে আবগারী বিভাগের আয় কেমন বৃদ্ধি পাইয়াছে তাহার একটী হিসাব দিতেছি।

১৯৩৫-৩৬ ইং সনে	১,৩৩,৭৩,০০০ টাকা।
১৯৩৬-৩৭ ইং সনে	১,৩৬,৩৭,০০০ এবং ২,৬৪,০০০ টাকা বৃদ্ধি।
১৯৩৭-৩৮ ইং সনে	১,৫৪,৫৬,০০০ এবং ২০,৮৩,০০০ টাকা বৃদ্ধি।
১৯৩৮-৩৯ ইং সনে	১,৫৭,০০,০০০ এবং ২৩,২৭,০০০ টাকা বৃদ্ধি।
১৯৩৮-৪০ ইং সনে	১,৫৭,০০,০০০ এবং ২৩,২৭,০০০ টাকা বৃদ্ধি।

উপরোক্ত আয় বৃদ্ধির হিসাব হইতেই বুঝিতে পারিবেন যে মদ গাজা, প্রভৃতি মাদক দ্রব্যের ব্যবহার কত দ্রুত গতিতে বৃদ্ধি পাইতেছে। মদের দোকানের সংখ্যা হ্রাসের তেমন কোন প্রমান পাওয়া যাইতেছে না। ১৯৩৫-৩৬ইং সনে ৪৭টী এবং ১৯৩৬-৩৭ইং সনে ৭০টী নূতন দোকানের লাইসেন্স দেওয়া হইয়াছে। ১৯৩৭ইং বাজেট অধিবেশনে প্রধান মন্ত্রী বলিয়াছিলেন "সমস্ত জিলার অধিবাসীই আমাদের লক্ষ্যস্থল তবে আমরা কতকগুলি নির্ব্বাচিত অঞ্চলে পরীক্ষামূলক ব্যবস্থা অবলম্বনের চেষ্টা করিব। আমাদের মন্ত্রীত্ব বজায় থাকা কালেই আমাদের নীতি সাফল্য লাভ করিবে বলিয়া আশা করি"। ১৯৩৬-৩৭ইং সনের সরকারী রিপোর্টে প্রকাশ যে নোয়াখালী জেলায় ৩৬টী মদের দোকান আছে, তন্মধ্যে ৪টী দেশী মদের। মন্ত্রীমণ্ডল এক দিকে বলিতেছেন যে মদ নিবারণের জন্য তাহারা ৪টী মদের দোকানের লাইসেন্স বন্ধ করিয়া দিয়াছেন, অন্য দিকে দেখা যায় যে ১২০টী নূতন দোকানের লাইসেন্স দেওয়া হইয়াছে। ৪টী দোকানের লাইসেন্স বন্ধ করিয়া বৎসরে ৪ হাজার টাকা আয় কমাইয়াছেন। কিন্তু ১২০টী মদের নূতন দোকান হইতে লক্ষাধিক টাকা আয় বাড়িয়া যাইবে। ইহা দ্বারা কি মাদক দ্রব্য নিবারণের ব্যবস্থা করা হইল, না মাদক দ্রব্য ব্যবহারের জন্য উৎসাহিত করা হইল? জনসাধারণকে এভাবে প্রতারণা করার উদ্দেশ্য কি?

কংগ্রেসী মন্ত্রীগণ মন্ত্রীত্ব গ্রহণ করার পর মাদক দ্রব্য নিবারণের পরিকল্পনা করিয়া বর্ত্তমান মাদক দ্রব্য নিবারণে সফলতা লাভ করিয়াছেন। ইহাতে ঐ সমস্ত প্রদেশে কোটী কোটী টাকা আয় কমিয়াছে। এখন আশা করি বাংলার মন্ত্রীগণ তাঁহাদের গত কালের কুটনীতি পরিত্যাগ করিয়া অতঃপর সকল প্রকারের মাদক দ্রব্য নিবারণের জন্য কার্য্যকরী পন্থা অবলম্বন পূর্ব্বক পূর্ব্বকৃত দোষ ও ত্রুটী সংশোধন করিবেন।

Dr. H. C. MUKHERJI: I cannot tell the House how glad I felt when I heard from the lips of the Hon'ble the Excise Minister that he has closed all the 36 excise shops in Noakhali. I do not know what the present condition is, but I happen to be the Vice-President of the Bengal Temperance Association and up to the 31st December, I know, only six shops were closed, and the other 30 shops were merrily selling *ganja*, opium and *bhang*. I am also the President of the Baptist Lay Association which has got work at Feni and Noakhali. So, I am in intimate contact with the inhabitants of those two places,

and can say that up to the 31st December, 1938, *ganja*, opium and *bhang* shops were working actively there. If these shops have been closed, I would ask what arrangements the Hon'ble the Excise Minister has made for supplying these drugs to those people who have been habitually accustomed to their use.

Well, Sir, I shall very carefully listen to his answer to my queries. I have also been told that Government is carefully studying the results and proposes utilising the experience gathered from Noakhali. The gentleman who preceded me pointed out that there are two foreign liquor and four country liquor shops at Noakhali. He also said that the total amount of revenue sacrificed annually was a little over Rs. 4,000. I shall go further into the matter and inform the House that according to the latest excise report these four shops have been selling 273 London proof gallons of country spirit. For the information of the House, I may say that these 273 London proof gallons represent about 4½ lakh quart bottles of ordinary country spirit per day. There are thus 4 bottles of country liquor per shop sold daily in the whole district of Noakhali. I have also been told by those who have more experience than I in this matter that four quart bottles of country liquor are sufficient to make 16 men drunk. I have no personal experience. So, I say that the closing of these 4 country liquor shops has benefited 16 chronic alcholics.

Well, Sir, I know one thing more. In the district of Noakhali there is not a single toddy shop. I know there is not a single licence which has been issued for tapping trees. I know that the incidence of taxation per head of population per year is one pice only, which shows that Noakhali for all practical purposes is dry. During my stay in Madras, I had the honour to call upon the Premier of Madras. I asked him why he had chosen Salem for prohibition. He said because it was the most drunken district in the whole of the Presidency. I have heard one of the Members of the Cabinet say that long and careful preparation is necessary before prohibition can be introduced. It took the Cabinet 7 months from September, 1937, to 31st March, 1938, and after seven months of long and careful deliberation they selected Noakhali in which there is the lowest consumption of excise articles. (Cheers from the Congress Bench.) Looking at it from still another point of view, I would merely suggest that (that is what others say), provided there is no further increase in the consumption of excise articles and if prohibition goes on at the pace set by the present Excise Minister, it will take about 4,000 years before Bengal goes dry. It has also been said that the amount sacrificed every year by the introduction of prohibition at Noakhali is less than the amount drawn by a particular Member of the Cabinet per month.

There was a time when Bengal was regarded as the leader of India. It was Gokhale who said "what Bengal thinks to-day India

thinks to-morrow". When I was in Madras and United Provinces I felt ashamed so much that I almost hung down my head in shame for the poor show that we are making here in the matter of prohibition During my stay in the Punjab, I had the honour to interview two members of the Cabinet and I asked them what they proposed doing in this direction. One of them said that the Punjab Government had accepted a resolution, carried in the Lower House of Punjab to introduce prohibition, but, Sir, if I am using a word which is not parliamentary I am prepared to withdraw it, they were more sincere because they said they were not going to introduce prohibition till they were able to find out ways and means to compensate the loss that would be incurred. I would most earnestly request the Bengal Government to adopt that straightforward policy and say "we are not in a position to sacrifice this revenue; therefore we shall not introduce prohibition". That would be, I think, a much better way.

I would like to draw the attention of the House to still another point. It has been said that the consumption of liquor is going down. I find that in 1933-34 2·46 lakh London proof gallons were consumed the next year 2·94 lakh gallons. At that time our country was governed by what was called the bureaucracy. With effect from the 1st of July, 1934, there was a reduction in the duty and the retail price of country liquor went down to the extent of 12½ to 25 per cent. Immediately the consumption of liquor went up to the extent of about 48,000 L.P. gallons, that is to say I am told (I am open to correction) 4½ lakh quart bottles. It may be said that this was due to the machinations of those whom we always do not regard as our friends. Why did not the Bengal Cabinet raise the duty to its former level when it came into power? In 1936-37 they introduced a new kind of liquor of 75 L.P. by which the consumption has gone up to 68,000 L.P. which amounts to 5½ lakh quart bottles. Again I am speaking subject to correction. I say it is only a new device. In 1825, the Duke of Wellington reduced the duty on beer. Hansard says, "He was sure that the measure would be attended with the most beneficial consequences". He thought that it would be a greater achievement than the battle of Waterloo which he won. There was such an increase of drunkenness and debauchery that the Lower House of Canterbury was compelled to appoint a committee in 1830. If there is any Anglican here he will understand what I mean. This is what the committee said—

> "This measure, though introduced for the avowed purpose of repressing intemperancy by counteracting the temptation to excessive drinking of ardent spirits, has been abundantly proved not only to have failed in its benevolent purpose but to have served throughout the country to multiply and intensify the very evils it was intended to remove."

Sydney Smith writing at that time observed as follows:—

"The new beer Bill (I would like to add the 75 L.P.) has begun its operation. Everybody is drunk. Those who are not singing are sprawling."

Let somebody come with me to Baranagar where we have a social service centre which I have been compelled to visit on Sundays in order that we may try to protect our brothers-in-faith from the evil influence of that 75 L.P. and after that let him say whether the introduction of this new beverage—our Excise Minister calls it "beverage"—whether the introduction of this new species of liquor has been of benefit to the country. I shall close with a passage across which I came this morning when I was preparing my lecture for the University classes. This is what a great Greek thinker has said:—

"The greatness of men is to be judged not so much by their ability to acquire political power but by the use of that power when it has once been secured. For power corrupts and as a class politicians are exposed to more temptations than people occupying humbler positions. Power is a great trust placed by a democracy in the hands of its leaders and it must be used with wisdom and discretion and for the benefit of all and not for the benefit of some among the citizens".

I say that the present Bengal Cabinet has been entrusted with power by Providence. Let them use their power not for the benefit of the rich people but for the benefit of those who are of weak moral fibre and who are easily led away into the use of drinks and drugs.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi JALALUDDIN AHMAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my object in rising to intervene in this debate is that I simply want to draw the attention of the House to the fact that this Ministry had accepted the policy of prohibition as was announced by the Chief Minister. We were told by the Minister in charge of Excise that he had been trying experiments at Noakhali and that afterwards he would communicate that result to us and extend the experiment to other places. Much has been said by the last speaker about the progress which has been made in other provinces in respect of prohibition. I do not want to accuse the Government because it does not behove of men who are not on the opposition to accuse the Ministry but I will only suggest that it does not speak well of the Minister in charge of Excise not to communicate the results of the experiment which he made at Noakhali although it was said that he had selected a place where there was practically no income from Excise. We were told

last year that this experiment at least would be extended to Chittagong. I had a talk with local officers and they hold the same opinion as myself that it can be extended. Still no communication is made on the subject. This is the first point to which I want to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister.

The other point to which I want to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister is the corruption in this department. Nowadays Excise shops are really a source of income to the educated unemployed and there are some educated people—graduates and other persons—who are willing to enter this line. I have heard of complaints that these educated men really cannot afford to go in for these shops on account of the humiliating position in which they will find themselves under the petty officers of the Excise Department. As a matter of fact there is a regular *chouth* on these shops monthly or annually for the lower officers of the Excise Department and the licenses have got to keep the inspecting lower officers in hamour if they have got to retain the shop. I hope the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Excise will look into these complaints if there is basis for them and difficulty in proving them in court.

The Hon'ble Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKER: Sir, no one can say anything against the Prohibition as a policy, but, Sir, as I have always said, the problem of intoxication is not so acute in Bengal as it is in other provinces. Even in spite of the Prohibition started in Bombay and Madras I think that other provinces are still a long way off from the general standard of sobriety which prevails in Bengal.

Sir, when we insist, when we demand a policy of prohibition we must clearly understand the excise problems in this province. Mr. Birendra Nath Mazumdar has quoted me, but he has not quoted the subsequent sentences. It is true that I said that the question of revenue must be subordinated to the question of prohibition. On principle I stick to every word of it, but I say in this year's budget we have not indicated any policy of prohibition. The reason is that in Bengal the evil is not so acute as in other provinces, and in the programmes of different parties with whose support we are carrying on this Government there was no mention, so far as I remember, of prohibition as an item. So we had to take first those problems for which the parties stood pledged to their constituencies. That is why, like the Congress provinces, we have not put prohibition as one of the foremost item. Sir, I have given these figures almost every year and I want to repeat them this year to compare our position in regard to excise with that of the other two prominent provinces where they have started prohibition. In Bengal we are getting Rs. 157 lakhs from Excise Revenue. Bombay gets Rs. 287 lakhs and Madras Rs. 355 lakhs. This is on the basis of the budget estimate for 1939-40 in which

account has been taken of the prohibition that has been introduced in certain districts. The *per capita* excise revenue in these provinces works out as follows:—

		Rs.	as.	p.
Bombay	... ...	1	9	6
Madras	... ...	6	12	0
Bengal	... ...	0	4	11

Sir, my friend Mr. Birendra Nath Mazumdar says that because the excise revenue has increased it shows that the evil effects of intoxication are spreading. If there is no other consideration I can give him a reply by quoting that in Bombay in spite of prohibition and in Madras in spite of prohibition their revenues have increased.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Revenue from Excise?

The Hon'ble Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKER: Yes. The estimated yield in Bombay for 1937-38 was Rs. 313 lakhs whereas the actuals amounted to Rs. 322 lakhs. The estimated yield in Madras for the same year was Rs. 387 lakhs and the actuals Rs. 404 lakhs. Excess over estimate was thus a common feature of the year shared alike by prohibition and non-prohibition provinces. Then, Sir, an analysis of the sources of excise revenue in this province shows that 53 per cent. of the receipts is derived from liquor, 22 per cent. from opium and 19 per cent. from *ganja*, *bhang*, and *charas*. These are indeed the three main heads of excise revenue and I want to consider them separately.

In regard to liquor, it may be pointed out that 83 per cent. of the total revenue is derived from this source in Madras and 78 per cent. in Bombay against 53 per cent. in Bengal. The liquor trade, therefore, is less important in this province than in Bombay or Madras. Bengal's revenue from liquor is distributed as follows:—33 per cent. from country-spirit, 12 per cent. from *tari* and *pachawai*, 6 per cent. from foreign liquor and 1 per cent. from beer. The consumption of beer and foreign liquor is confined mostly to Europeans and a few well-to-do Indians and does not affect the general population. *Pachawai* is consumed mainly by the aboriginal tribes, such as Sonthals, who take it as food and drink combined and who cannot do without it. Home brewing license is generally granted to these aboriginals. Anyone who is acquainted with the condition of life of these classes of consumers in districts like Burdwan, where consumption is heavy, will have no doubt that *pachawai* is a necessary restorative food and drink of which they cannot be deprived without injurious results. As regards *tari*, it is mainly confined to certain Western Bengal districts and to some towns such as Dacca, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Dinajpur and Malda. *Tari* is consumed by a very restricted class of people such as sweepers,

Ghariwalas, etc. It is not generally confined to the masses of the people. *Tari* is, therefore, not such an important problem as to deserve particular attention. The main item under the category of liquor which calls for consideration is really country-spirit, but a detailed analysis of the facts about country-spirit will remove the popular misapprehension that it affects a large section of the masses. The consumption of country-spirit in 1937-38 was 539,000 gallons out of which 380,000 or 70 per cent. of the total consumption occurred in Burdwan and Presidency Divisions where liquor is taken mainly by labourers in industrial areas working in factories, mills and coal mines. Calcutta alone with its large labour population contributes 172,000 gallons or 45 per cent. of the total consumption of Western Bengal. If we analyse the revenue from various districts, it will appear that in non-industrial districts the revenue is almost negligible. Thus the yield is 4,000 in Noakhali, 15,000 in Jessore, 21,000 each in Khulna, Birbhum and Bakarganj, and 25,000 in Faridpur. Even in these districts, the consumption is restricted to the urban area and practically does not touch the rural population.

Then, Sir, let us take another test, namely, the area served by each shop. It will appear that whereas that in rural areas each country-spirit shop on an average serves about 98·7 square miles in Bengal, while the corresponding area in Bombay is 46·93 square miles and in Madras 21·8 square miles. In other words, for one shop in Bengal they have got two in Bombay and four in Madras. Thus the areas, served by a country-spirit shop is very large indeed. Thus in Mymensingh, a country-spirit shop is serving 157·8 square miles; in Faridpur 235·2 square miles; in Bakarganj, 575·5 square miles and in Noakhali 756·5 square miles. These facts make it abundantly clear that, generally speaking, the vast agricultural population of rural Bengal has nothing to do with country-spirit. In regard to opium, it is taken for medical purposes, chiefly by old people in order to keep them up in old age. Persons suffering from chronic diarrhœa and some other diseases also take opium as medicine. But the provision of hospitals and dispensaries has greatly reduced the need of taking opium as medicine; as even the poor can now readily get standardised medicine and consequently have given up their faith in the efficacy of opium as medicine. There are clear indications that opium-eating is now on the decrease. Thus the consumption of opium which was 39·792 seers in 1926-27 fell to 26·160 seers in 1937-38. In regard to *ganja*, *bhang* and *charas*, too, the consumption is steadily decreasing as the following figures will show:—

	1926-27.	1937-38.
	Srs.	Srs.
Ganja ..	67,678	33,439
Bhang ...	16,299	8,875
Charas ...	2,578	771

It will be obvious from the above analysis that there is no case for the enforcement of prohibition in this province so far as these drugs are concerned.

My friend, Mr. Mazumdar, has stated that the Government of Orissa have declared that we have reduced the price of opium in areas of Midnapore adjoining Orissa, so that the Orissa experiment on prohibition may not be successful. I do not know whether the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Excise of that Province has said so. But the charge is not true. The selling price of opium in those areas was reduced in 1936 in order to compete with the then prevailing price of opium in Orissa. At that time the Bengal Government rate was higher than that of Orissa. So in order to compete with Orissa the rate was reduced in 1936 even though the reduced rate was higher than the Orissa rate, the Orissa rate being Rs. 1-2 and Bengal rate Rs. 1-4. But now when Orissa has declared prohibition, the Bengal Government have raised the rate of opium to Rs. 1-14, and have also taken other steps so that their experiment may be successful. (Dr. H. C. MUKHERJI: Have you shifted the Bengal shops back from the Orissa border?) Yes, within a radius of four miles from their boundary all the shops have been closed.

Sir, my friends opposite will always try to quote what the Congress provinces have done, but when we give a reply they feel very much irritated. The other day Mr. Dhirendra Nath Datta said that the name of Congress to me was like a red rag to a bull. I never say anything against the Congress, rather I feel the difficulties of the Congress Ministers and whenever I have compared with them, I have done so to show that it would not be reasonable for members opposite to expect that we should do much more than what those powerful ministries have not been able to do! In spite of that Mr. Datta says that the name of the Congress to me is a sort of a red rag to a bull. That is not a fact. If I bring in the name of the Congress here, my intention is to exorcise the devil by throwing the mustard. That is why I bring the name of Congress here.

We are not going on with the policy of prohibition with expedition, because we think that in Bengal Education, Agriculture, Public Health, should have precedence over Prohibition. And even if we are to discover 2 crores of rupees in the form of fresh revenue, I submit that even with that revenue our position will be the same as it is now, were we to adopt prohibition all at once.

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, before the Hon'ble the Excise Minister speaks——

Mr. SPEAKER: He will not speak.

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: How is that? Has the Excise portfolio been transferred to the Hon'ble the Finance Minister?

Mr. SPEAKER: He has already spoken.

The motion of Mr. Maqbul Hosain that the demand of Rs. 20,58,000 for expenditure under the head "8—Provincial Excise" be reduced by Rs. 100 was put to vote and a division taken with the following result—

AYES 67.

Abdul Majid, Maulvi.
Abdul Wahed, Maulvi.
Abu Hossain Sarkar, Maulvi.
Abul Fazl, Mr. Md.
Ahmed Khan, Mr. Syed.
Asimuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Banerji, Mr. P.
Banerji, Mr. Satya Priya.
Banerjee, Mr. Sibnath.
Banerjee, Dr. Suresh Chandra.
Bannerjee, Mr. Manoranjan.
Barma, Babu Premhari.
Barman, Babu Shyama Prasad.
Biswas, Mr. Rasik Lal.
Biswas, Mr. Surendra Nath.
Chakrabarty, Mr. Jatindra Nath.
Chakrabarty, Babu Narendra Narayan.
Chattopadhyay, Mr. Haripada.
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendra Nath.
Das, Babu Mahim Chandra.
Das, Babu Radhanath.
Das Gupta Babu Khagendra Nath.
Das Gupta, Srijut Narendra Nath.
Datta, Mr. Dhirendra Nath.
Dolui, Mr. Harendra.
Dutta, Mr. Sukumar.
Dutta Gupta, Miss Mira.
Dutta Mazumdar, Mr. Niharendu.
Emadul Haque, Kazi.
Ghose, Mr. Atul Krishna.
Giasuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Goswami, Mr. Tulsi Chandra.
Gupta, Mr. Jogesh Chandra.
Jalan, Mr. I. D.
Khan, Mr. Debendra Lall.
Kumar, Mr. Atul Chandra.
Kundu, Mr. Nishitha Nath.
Maiti, Mr. Nikunja Behari.
Maitra, Mr. Surendra Mohan.
Maji, Mr. Adwaita Kumar.
Majumdar, Mrs. Hemaprova.
Mazumdar, Mr. Birendra Nath.
Mallick, Mr. Iswar Chandra.
Mandal, Mr. Amrita Lal.
Mandal, Mr. Jogendra Nath.
Maniruzzaman Islamabadi, Maulana Md.
Maqbul Hosain, Mr.
Mukherji, Dr. H. C.
Mukherji, Dr. Sharat Chandra.
Mullick, Srijut Ashutosh.
Nasker, Mr. Hem Chandra.
Nausher Ali, Mr. Syed.
Pain, Mr. Barada Prasanna.
Ramizuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Roy, Mr. Charu Chandra.
Roy, Mr. Dhananjoy.
Roy, Mr. Kiran Sankar.
Roy, Mr. Kisheri Pati.
Sanyal, Dr. Nalinaksha.
Sanyal, Mr. Sasanka Sekhar.
Sen, Babu Nagendra Nath.
Shahedali, Mr.
Shamsuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Sinha, Srijut Manindra Bhusan.
Sur, Mr. Harendra Kumar.
Thakur, Mr. Prematha Ranjan.
Waliur Rahman, Maulvi.

NOES 108.

Abdul Hafiz, Mr. Mirza.
Abdul Hafiz, Mr. Mia.
Abdul Hakim Vikrampori, Maulvi Md.
Abdul Hamid, Mr. A. M.
Abdul Jabbar, Maulvi.
Abdul Kader, Mr. alias Lal Meah.
Abdul Karim, Mr.
Abdul Latif Biswas, Maulvi.
Abdul Majid, Mr. Syed.
Abdul Wahab Khan, Mr.
Abdulla-al Mahmood, Mr.
Abdur Rahman, Khan Bahadur A. F. M.
Abdur Rashid Mahmood, Mr.
Abdur Rashood, Maulvi Md.
Abdur Rauf, Khan Sahib Maulvi S.
Abdur Rauf, Mr. Shah.
Abdur Razzak, Maulvi.
Abdus Shaheed, Maulvi Md.
Abidur Reza Chowdhury, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Abul Hashim, Maulvi.
Abul Quasem, Maulvi.
Aftab Hossain Jaardar, Maulvi.
Ahmed Ali Mridha, Maulvi.
Ahmed Hossain, Mr.
Alimuddin Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Amiruddah, Khan Sahib Maulvi.
Ashrafali, Mr. M.
Asiad Hossain Khan, Maulvi.

Azhar Ali, Maulvi.
Barat Ali, Mr. Md.
Bell-Hart, Miss P. B.
Campbell, Sir George.
Chippendale, Mr. J. W.
Clark, Mr. I. A.
Crosfield, Mr. L. M.
Das, Mr. Anukul Chandra.
Das, Rai Sahib Kirit Bhusan.
Dass, Babu Debendra Nath.
Edbar, Mr. Upendranath.
Farhad Raza Chowdhury, Mr. M.
Farhat Bano Khanam, Begum.
Fazlul Quadir, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Fazlur Rahman, Mr.
Fazlur Rahman (Mymensingh), Mr.
Golam Sarwar Hosaini, Mr. Shah Syed.
Gomes, Mr. S. A.
Griffiths, Mr. C.
Gupta, Mr. J. N.
Habibullah, the Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur K., of Dacca.
Hafizuddin Chowdhury, Maulvi.
Hamiduddin Ahmad, Khan Sahib.
Hasanuzzaman, Maulvi Md.
Hasemali Khan, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Hasina Murshed, Mrs., M.B.E.
Hatemally Jamadar, Khan Sahib Maulvi.
Heaman, Mr. F. T.
Idris, Ahmed Mia, Maulvi.
Jalaluddin Ahmad, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Kabiruddin Khan, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Kennedy, Mr. I. G.
MacGregor, Mr. G. G.
Mafizuddin Ahmed, Dr.
Mafizuddin Ahmed, Maulvi.
Mahtab, Maharajkumar Uday Chand.
Mahtabuddin Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Mandal, Mr. Banku Behari.
Mandal, Mr. Jagat Chandra.
Masud Ali Khan Panni, Maulvi.
Miliar, Mr. C.
Mohammed Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Mohsin Ali, Mr. Md.
Morgan, Mr. G., C.I.E.
Moslem Ali Mollah, Maulvi.
Mozammel Huq, Maulvi Md.
Muhammad Afzal, Khan Sahib Maulvi Syed.
Muhammad Ishaque, Maulvi.
Muhammad Israil, Maulvi.
Muhammad Siddique, Khan Bahadur Dr. Syed.
Mullick, the Hon'ble Mr. Mukunda Behary.
Mullick, Mr. Pulin Behary.
Musharruf Hossain, the Hon'ble Nawab, Khan Bahadur.
Mustagawai Haque, Mr. Syed.
Nandy, the Hon'ble Maharaja Srischandra, of Cossimbazar.
Nasarullah, Nawabzada K.
Nazimuddin, the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir, K.C.I.E.
Norton, Mr. H. R.
Rahman, Khan Bahadur A. M. L.
Raikut, the Hon'ble Mr. Prosanna Deb.
Rajibuddin Tarafdar, Maulvi.
Razaur Rahman Khan, Mr.
Roy, the Hon'ble Sir Bijoy Prasad Singh.
Roy, Mr. Patiram.
Sadaruddin Ahmed, Mr.
Safiruddin Ahmed, Haji.
Sarkar, Babu Madhusudan.
Sarker, the Hon'ble Mr. Nalini Ranjan.
Shahabuddin, Mr. Khwaja, C.B.E.
Shamsuddin Ahmed Khondkar, Mr.
Sirdar, Babu Litta Munda.
Smith, Mr. H. Brabant.
Steven, Mr. J. W. R.
Suhrawardy, the Hon'ble Mr. H. S.
Tamizuddin Khan, the Hon'ble Mr.
Tofel Ahmed Choudhury, Maulvi Haji.
Walker, Mr. W. A. M.
Wordsworth, Mr. W. C.
Yousuf Mirza.
Yusuf Ali Choudhury, Mr.

The Ayes being 67 and the Noes 108 the motion was lost.

The motion of Mr. Birendra Nath Mazumdar that the demand for a sum of Rs. 20,58,000 under the head "8—Provincial Excise" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The main motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Prosanna Deb Raikut that a sum of Rs. 20,58,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "8—Provincial Excise" was then put and agreed to.

25—General Administration—Debt Conciliation.

The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 21,12,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration—Debt Conciliation".

Sir, in presenting this demand to the House, I am sure, I shall not be misunderstood if I do not enter into a detailed discussion at this stage as to the activities of the large number of Boards that we have established in the Province for the purpose of conciliation of rural indebtedness. It must be understood at the outset that when we operate upon the Bengal Agricultural Debtors' Act for the purpose of conciliation or settlement of the debts of agricultural masses, it is not to wipe the same out. The idea is to settle the debts and to bring them within the paying capacity and power of the agricultural debtor on an amicable basis with his creditors.

Last year I placed before the House the amount of work that this department did towards that object When I placed my demand before the House on the 24th March last year, I stated that we had established 2,791 Boards by then. The idea of Government is to have one Board for each big union or at least one Board for two small unions. It is also the idea to have a Board at each subdivisional headquarters with special powers of the Act. It has been decided further that, to expedite matters and to give relief to the debtors, one Board should be established with special powers for the area covered by a Co-operative Central Bank and one for that of the Land Mortgage Bank. Taking all these we now have 3,412 Boards working in different parts of the Province. Excepting the districts of Darjeeling and the Chittagong Hill Tracts, Boards have been established all over. It may be that we have not been able to go to the full extent, but it will appear that the want of these Boards at a particular place does not stand in the way of giving initial relief to the debtor, for, we have now got special Boards established all over, and a debtor in order to get relief may apply to the Special Board.

In the next place I mentioned on the last occasion that we had decided to vest all the Boards with powers under sections 9 (*2*) and 13 (*2*) of the Act. There was a demand that we should vest the Boards also with powers under section 19 (*1*) (*b*) of the Act. The question has been considered, and it has been decided that the Boards, which would be recommended by District Officers for being vested with these powers, will be so vested. In point of fact, a large number of Boards have already been vested with these powers, and that instruction will now be sent to the District Officers to consider the cases of those Boards which have been functioning for over a year and to recommend those of them which have done well to be vested with powers under section 19 (*1*) (*b*). It is sincerely hoped that the progress will be much quicker and that the problem will be tackled to the satisfaction of all concerned.

The House may be interested to have some idea of the progress that these Boards have made in actually conciliating rural indebtedness. Up to 31st December, 1938, the number of applications received

was over 9 lakhs and 62 thousand. These applications involved a claim to the extent of over rupees 3 crores and 73 lakhs. The amount at which awards were made brought down the debt nearly to rupees 1 crore and 82 lakhs or at less than 50 per cent. of the claim. If the amount of the claim which has since reached the stage of determination is added, it will appear that the total claim thus tackled is over 5 crores of rupees. If again the amounts involved in the rest of the pending applications be taken into account, we shall then have a total of nearly 30 crores of rupees of agricultural debt sought to be conciliated on a voluntary basis through these Boards.

Questions put in the House seem to indicate some amount of despondency on the composition of these Boards. I am sorry I have to join issue with those of my friends who maintain this view. Even if it is assumed for the sake of argument that all this did not come up to our full expectation, I do maintain that a large number of these Boards have been doing very good work. In the course of my tour in the interior, I made it a point to get into close touch with the members of the Boards and to get to know their workings in the presence of the creditors and debtors as also in the presence of local officers, and I was extremely happy to find that these Boards were discharging their responsibilities to the fullest satisfaction. I have known of such cases in the districts of Dacca, Faridpur, Barisal, Khulna and also at some other places. I shall only mention one instance where a Board at Thakurakona in Netrokona subdivision of Mymensingh district has finished all the cases that were filed before it. It received 539 applications involving a total claim of Rs. 3,48,842-12-1 and of these, 45 cases were transferred to the Special Board involving a claim of Rs. 66,228-4-9, and 16 were transferred to other Boards involving a claim of Rs. 13,417-0-8. It was left with 478 cases involving a claim of Rs. 2,69,197-6-8. The amount determined under section 18 of the Act came to Rs. 1,24,351-6-3, or at less than 50 per cent. of the total claim. The amount at which awards were made came to Rs. 86,415-13-0, or at nearly 30 per cent. of the total claim. It realised court-fees to the value of Rs. 2,739-9-0, and the total expenditure of the establishment for the Board came to Rs. 591-3-3. I have got another interesting report from a Board at Palba-Akna in the district of Hooghly. Although it has not finished all the cases, it has made equally wonderful progress.

I have not been able to follow the argument when it has been suggested that a technical knowledge of law is essential for this purpose. The main question is to settle the debts by bringing the same within the paying capacity of the debtors. I do not think the liability has ever been denied; and for the purpose of settlement by awards the persons with a sense of responsibility living near about the parties are expected to do the very best.

I have known of instances where Boards are composed mainly of illiterate persons and the report is that they are doing extremely well.

It appears, therefore, as I have always maintained, that it is the character of persons enjoying confidence of the public and actuated with the honesty of purpose of making themselves useful to their neighbours, which is essential in making these Boards a success than anything else.

Some defects and difficulties have been noticed in the Act for a proper working of these Boards. To remove these, an amending Bill has not only been drafted, but has also been published. It is hoped that this Bill, when it takes the shape of law, will give enough power to the Boards to deal satisfactorily with that item of debt known as "usufructuary mortgage" in this province. Provision has also been made in the Bill by which a good deal of time will be saved between the making of an application and the final stage of making an award.

I do not think I should say anything more at this stage, and with these words, Sir, I formally put my demand for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Sir, I beg to move that the demand for Rs. 21,12,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration—Debt Conciliation" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the desirability of Government buying up all credit as settled by Debt Conciliation Boards for not more than half the value of such credit as so settled by issue of debentures.

From excise to debt is only a logical step. Standing to-day on the cross road of various progressive forces we take a natural pride, a legitimate pride in thinking that a new era of social and economic rejuvenation is dawning upon us. In spite of difficulties, in spite of unreal differences amongst artificially warring communities, in spite of the delirious ravings of a hysteric Home Minister, we would not be behaving as its true herald and harbinger unless we knew how to rend and lift the veil of clouds that overhang the rising sun.

Sir, going a little deep into the ultimate units of reconstruction we find that the problem before us is not one of loaves and fishes, not one of a few seats here and a few seats there, not one of clerks and public prosecutors, but a problem of land overburdened and a tenantry over head and ears in grinding indebtedness.

Much has been spoken of the Bengal Agricultural Debtors Act. The Bengal Agricultural Debtors Act was probably conceived in a spirit of service and necessity, and the debt conciliation boards have served a little limited purpose. But it cannot be denied that there is ample room for improving the functions of these boards and putting the Act into operation. What is more both this Act and the boards

have exhausted their usefulness and the time has come for replacing these halfway measures and patchworks by a more radical handling born of a more courageous outlook.

Turning to the villages, Sir, we find that the debt conciliation boards have succeeded only in theoretically scaling down the quantum of indebtedness; but frightened capital has led to such a spontaneous deadlock in financial resources that the average debtor is not only encumbered as before but is also additionally embarrassed in the matter of getting loans. It is exactly in this state of things that the Government must come forward with a bold front and with initiative to shoulder the responsibilities in the matter.

By taking upon itself the liability of debts as humbly proposed by my cut motion the Government would be inspiring the minds of the numerous creditors with a sense of security and confidence in return for which they would not only agree to any long term arrangement but would also gladly forego a portion of their dues even after they have been considerably scaled down by the conciliation boards. They will make an application of the golden rule that a small bird is worth many a big in the bush.

And look at the vast number of mudstuck debtors, our ultimate raw materials for the future regenerated society; their direct contact with the machinery of the Government even if it be the contact of a party under obligation will fill their minds with new hopes and an immense sense of relief; because they will be placed under the tutelage of a power whose function is to preserve them and not to destroy. Their earning and producing capacity will be the direct question and concern of the State. Democracy will be more real and the machinery of the administration will reflect like a mirror the joys and sorrows, the struggle and achievement of the teeming millions. Thus by intervention of the State there will be a healthy and progressive co-ordination among forces that are apparently conflicting and mutually destructive. I would also invite the Government to go out into the villages with a network of rural banks, so that the frightened and shy capital might find a steady and confident flow into them and make itself ultimately available for the community at large. If these bold steps are taken by the Government within a short space of time by a planned process of evolution, the assets and liabilities would thus be nationalised.

I am told there are difficulties in the matter of working out the details; probably there are. But let not these difficulties deter us from making a revolutionary mental makeup.

Looking a little beyond the nose what do we see, Sir? Countries and nations are being conquered overnight with all their appendages of life and property. Would it be more difficult for us to extricate our masses from the vampire of vicarious liability? I think not. A short determination and stout imagination is necessary. Let us not

worry our heads over details. The details are always embarrassing and discouraging. We should also launch a progressive programme with imagination and boldness. To me it seems we can simply write off the debts if only we had a genuine desire, a desire to clear our to-day of past regrets and future fears.

I would humbly appeal to the Hon'ble Minister in charge and through him to the members of the Coalition Party that they should exercise their little bit of influence in such co-ordinating spirit as to ensure a new era in which the problem is not so much the settlement of debt but wiping out the liability. I know the expression "wiping out the liability" does not hear well in certain ears.

Coming as I do from the rural atmosphere I know that patch-works in small dozes will not do any good. What is necessary is an absolutely radical outlook. I therefore appeal to the Hon'ble Minister to take the matter up in all seriousness not from the point of view of mere ministerial propaganda but to exercise and use his influence in such a way as to ensure happiness in the minds of the people, so that when they will lay down the reins of office it might be said that the Hon'ble Ministers did not indulge merely in propaganda at the cost of opponents, by issuing leaflets here and there, but were actuated by a desire to do real good to the people.

Mr. SPEAKER: I might say at this stage that motions Nos. 105, 106 and 110 have not been properly drafted. The proper form should be, namely, 105 to raise a discussion on the desirability of including scheduled banks and co-operative banks within the scope of debt conciliation boards.

Similarly, the next 106 should be to raise a discussion on the desirability of giving power to the civil courts to settle debts of agriculturists.

110 should be to raise a discussion on the question of jurisdiction of debt settlement boards to take up and settle disputed cases involving sales of landed properties of debtors that were held from 1930.

I hope the members will modify their motions accordingly.

Babu SHYAMA PROSAD BARMAN: I beg to move that the demand for a sum of Rs. 21,12,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration—Debt Conciliation" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion on the desirability of giving power to the civil court to settle debts of agriculturists.

Sir, the Bengal Agricultural Debtors Act which has been a very favourite Act with the Hon'ble Ministers has times without number been severely and adversely criticised by the Hon'ble Judges of the Calcutta High Court, who expressed the opinion which did not go to the credit of the present Government. The Act contains unreasonable

and arbitrary provision of law. The operation of this Act has dealt a death blow to all the principles of law and legal traditions which have grown from the thoughtful and invaluable decisions of the judicial tribunals. Sir, the Bengal Agricultural Debtors Act is a great source of relief to the heavy indebtedness of the agriculturists of Bengal. It gives great relief to the agriculturist debtors of Bengal, it is true, but, Sir, unless provisions are made for extending rural credit facilities, unless arrangements are made for the establishment of banks in the rural areas along with the establishment of Debt Settlement Boards the agricultural debtors will derive no benefit, no advantage from this Act.

Sir, with a view to relieve the agriculturists of their heavy indebtedness, the Hon'ble Ministers are extending the operations of this Act and have established Debt Settlement Boards throughout the length and breadth of the country. But, Sir, do the Hon'ble Ministers realise what panic these Boards are creating in the the minds of the people of the province, what harm and injustice these Boards are doing to the economic structure of the society? The Chairmen and members of the Boards who are wanting in proper education and legal training are empowered to decide and settle debts of an unlimited amount, which an experienced and seniormost munsiff has not the pecuniary jurisdiction to adjudicate upon. But these Boards have to decide intricate questions of law, which are necessarily involved in cases filed in the Debt Settlement Boards without any legal training or any legal equipment on their part. This sort of provision of law is in my opinion simply unreasonable and astounding.

The operation of the Bengal Agricultural Debtors Act has not only destroyed rural credit of Bengal but it is going to demolish the very foundation of the economic structure of the province. The village mahajans, who acted as so many rural banks of Bengal supplying credit to the agriculturists at the time of their need, are going to be wiped out of existence. As a consequence these mahajans are compelled to close down their business leaving the poor agriculturists quite helpless and to their fate, as no provision is made for supplying credit to these poor agriculturists.

The Hon'ble Home Minister, Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin the other day in his budget speech stated that in many areas grounds are being prepared for the no-rent campaign and no-tax campaign. I will say, Sir, this is not true, but, Sir, on the other hand an active form of no-rent campaign is going on in every union where the Debt Settlement Board has been established, not by the political agitators, not by the leaders of the Krishak Proja Party, not by anybody else, but by the Government themselves, by the Debt Conciliation Department of the Government through the Chairmen and members and clerks of the Debt Settlement Boards. The Chairmen, and members and also the clerks of the Boards are touring from village to village, from house

to house making a strong propaganda not to pay rent to the zemindars, not to pay legal dues to mahajans or to other creditors but they are inducing the villagers, unwary villagers, simple-minded villagers, to file cases in the Debt Settlement Boards so that they may delay or even defeat the payment and if necessary, defraud the creditors.

Sir, let me turn to the actual working of these Boards. The Hon'ble Minister had eulogised the members of these Boards and called them as so many social workers devoting their time and energy for the best interests of the poor agriculturists, but Sir, I respectfully differ from that view expressed by the Hon'ble Minister. Are we to believe that the Chairmen and members of these Boards, who do not get any travelling allowance, daily allowance or car allowance or any kind of honoraria will act with any altruistic motives? Thus we see that in these Boards some of the Chairmen and members of the Debt Settlement Boards have found a great source of income. There is corruption and bribery in almost every Board and there are cases where money is extorted from the parties in the name of court-fees, where the amount of settled debt and the number of instalments vary with the amount of money that goes to the pockets of the members of the Settlement Boards. Then, Sir, the Debt Settlement Boards which have been established for the benefit of the poor agriculturists have become engines of oppression and tyranny both to the debtors and to the creditors. Thus we see that the orders of the Debt Settlement Boards are sometimes whimsical, sometimes unreasonable, sometimes tardy, and sometimes these orders are vitiated by party leanings as there must be party leanings in every Debt Settlement Board.

Sir, of late the Hon'ble Ministers fight shy of the courts of law. I don't know the reason but I think they don't have the courage to withstand the strong criticism of the courts of justice and that is why they are not giving the courts of law the power to interfere with the provisions of the Act. That is why they are going to pass the Bengal Agricultural Debtors Amendment Bill in the present session of the Assembly overriding the decisions of the Hon'ble the High Court. Sir, with these few words I beg to commend my cut motion for the acceptance of the House.

Maulvi ABDUR REZZAK: মাননীয় সভাপতিমহাশয়, জনপ্রিয় মন্ত্রীবাহাদুর এই পরিষদে ঋণ সালিশী বোর্ডের ব্যয় বরাদ্দ বাবদ যে টাকার দাবি জানাইয়াছেন তজ্জন্য তাঁহাকে আমি ধন্যবাদ জ্ঞাপন না করিয়া থাকিতে পারিলাম না। কারণ ইহাই ঋণ-ভারে জড়িত কৃষককুলের প্রকৃত কল্যাণের একমাত্র উপায়। জনহিতকর কাজের দরুণ হক মন্ত্রী-মণ্ডলী বাংলার বুকে সুখ্যাতির সহিত দিন দিন উন্নতির শিখরে আরোহণ করিতেছে ও করিবে। যদিও বিরুদ্ধ পার্টির বন্ধুগণ সাম্প্রদায়িকতার ও এহলামের আওতায় টানিয়া গিলিয়া ফেলিতে চেষ্টা করিতেছে, এবং cut motion এ ঘন ঘন ভোট call করিয়া নিজেদের সমাজসেবক বলিয়া পরিচয় দিয়া জনপ্রিয় হইতে চেষ্টা করিতেছে, কিন্তু তাহা সুদূর পরাহত। বন্ধুগণ, কাকের মুখে কোকিলের বুলি আর শোভা পাইবে না। কেননা ঐসব বন্ধুদিগকে সমাজ

ভাল করিয়া চিনিয়াছে। প্রজাস্বত্ব আইন পাশ করার কালিন এবং এই জনপ্রিয় মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলী উক্ত আইন এমেণ্ডমেণ্ট করার সময় এবং সেইদিন percentage এর ভোট কালিন সব কথাই খসিয়া গিয়াছে। গাধাকে বাঘের চামড়া পরাইয়া আর কৃষকের ধান খাওয়ান চলিবে না। স্পিকার-মহোদয়, আমি মন্ত্রীবাহাদুরের ঋণ-সালিশী বোর্ডের আইন সম্পর্কে একটি কথা নিবেদন করিব। যখন ভূতপূর্ব গভর্ণর স্যার জন্ এণ্ডারসন বঙ্গীয় চাষী-খাতক আইন ঘোষণা করেন তখন হইতে মহাজন class কৃষকের ভিটামাটী বিক্রী আরম্ভ করিয়া দেয়। আইন পাশ করিয়াও গভর্ণমেণ্ট সর্ব্বত্র এযাবৎ ঋণ-সালিশী বোর্ড স্থাপন করিতে সক্ষম হন নাই। মহাজন শ্রেণী কৃষকের বসতবাড়ী খাস করিয়া কৃষকগণকে পথের কাঙ্গাল করিয়াছে। এমতাবস্থায় আমি মন্ত্রীবাহাদুরকে অনুরোধ করিতেছি যেন ১৯০১ইং হইতে কৃষকের মহাজন ও জমিদারগণ যে সমস্ত সম্পত্তি নিলাম করাইয়াছেন, এই মোসনে চাষী-খাতক আইন সংশোধন করিয়া ঐ সমস্ত সম্পত্তি ঋণ-সালিশী বোর্ডের আমলে আনিয়া হক্ মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলীকে বাংলার বুকে চিরস্মরণীয় করিয়া রাখুন। শত্রুগণ আদাজল খাইয়া জ্বলিয়া হিংসায় পুড়িয়া মরিতেছে। তাহাতে কিছু আসে যায় না। আমি কাহারও মনে আঘাত না দিয়া থাকিতে পারি, কিন্তু শত্রুকে কি করিব, নিজে শত্রুর বশীভূত হইয়া জ্বলিয়া পুড়িয়া মরিতেছি। স্পিকারমহোদয়, আমি বসিবার পূর্বে আমার ফেনী থানার ৬নং ইউনিয়নের ঋণ-সালিশী বোর্ডের করুণ কাহিনী পরিষদে উপস্থিত করিতেছি। এই ইউনিয়নের এক ওয়াকফ্ সম্পত্তি কয়েকখানা খাজনা মোকদ্দমার বিরুদ্ধে কয়েকজন প্রজা ঋণ-সালিশী বোর্ডে দরখাস্ত দিয়া স্থগিত করায়। কিন্তু বোর্ডের প্রতি প্রজাগণের আস্থা না থাকায় তাহারা ফেনী S. D. O. court এ transfer petition দেয়। S. D. O. record তলব দেওয়ায় বোর্ড হইতে উত্তর আসে, তাহাদিগের কোন মোকদ্দমা এই বোর্ডে নাই। S. D. O. সাহেব তদন্তের ভার স্থানীয় Special Officer কে অর্পণ করেন। তিনি তদন্তের পর রিপোর্ট দিলেন সত্যই তাহারা কোন মোকদ্দমা এই বোর্ডে করে নাই। প্রজাগণ নিরুপায় হইয়া তাহাদের বিরুদ্ধে নারাজি দরখাস্ত file করেন। S. D. O. সাহেব স্বয়ং প্রমাণ তলব দিয়া—

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit, resumed his seat.)

Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS: সভানেত্রী মহোদয়া, বর্ত্তমানে আমি আমার cut motion টা move কোরছি। Debt Conciliation এর জন্য মন্ত্রীমহাশয় যে টাকা বরাদ্দ মঞ্জুর চেয়েছেন তা থেকে ১০০ টাকা কমানো হোক। কারণ Bengal Agricultural Debtors Act এ যে সমস্ত defect রয়েছে সেগুলি সম্বন্ধে গভর্ণমেণ্টের ঔদাসিন্যের জন্য আমি এই cut motion এনেছি। মহোদয়া, আপনি মফস্বলের অবস্থা না জানলেও আমরা সকলে জানি যে মফস্বলে মহাজনেরা খাতকদের উপর কি রকম অত্যাচার কোরে আসছে। মহাজনদের হাত থেকে খাতকদের উদ্ধার পাওয়ার সম্ভাবনা অতি অল্প ছিলো, সেই জন্যই Bengal Agricultural Debtors Act এর মতন একটা আইনের প্রয়োজনীয়তা সকলেই অনুভব কোরে আসছিলেন। গভর্ণমেণ্ট সেই সমস্ত চাপে পোড়ে এই আইন কোরেছেন। কিন্তু যখন আইন করেন তখন তাড়াতাড়িতে আইনটা এমন ভাবে করা হয়েছে যে বাস্তবিক ঋণী খাতকের সুবিধা বেশী হোয়ে উঠছে না। এই আইনের অনেক সংশোধনের প্রয়োজন আছে। এই আইন প্রবর্ত্তিত হবার পর থেকে আমরা যেরূপ আশা কোরেছিলাম মফঃস্বলের অবস্থা তার বিপরীত রূপ ধারণ কোরেছে। বর্ত্তমানে মফস্বলে যে যে অঞ্চলে এই আইন প্রবর্ত্তিত হোয়ে যেখানে যেখানে Debt Conciliation Board স্থাপিত সেখানেই অধিকাংশ খাতকদের, এবং গ্রামে বোধহয় অধিকাংশ লোকই খাতক, তাদের প্রায় সকলের অবস্থা Debt Conciliation Board এর কার্য্য আরম্ভ হবার পর থেকে চরমে উঠে পোড়েছে। কারণ গ্রামে এখন গ্রামবাসী মহাজনদের ঋণ দান করা বন্ধ হোয়েছে। চাষীর ঋণ ছাড়া আর উপায় নাই। তাদের দৈনিক জীবনের জন্য এবং কৃষির জন্য ঋণের একান্ত প্রয়োজন

সর্ব্বদাই হয়। তাদের যে রকম দুর্দ্দশার ভিতর দিয়ে চোলতে হয়। তাদের আয় যত কম তাতে ঋণ ছাড়া চোলতে পারে না। মহাজন কর্তৃক ঋণ বন্ধ হওয়ার ফলে তাদের এখন জমি জমা বিক্রয় কোরে টাকা পেতে হয়। এবং শুধু বিক্রয় কোরলেই হয় না, বর্গা কবুলিয়ৎ না দিলে জমিতে যাওয়া চলে না। খাতকের জমিজমা এখন মহাজনদের হাতে চোলে গিয়েছে। আমাদের মন্ত্রীমহাশয় এবং অন্যান্য সকলে বোধ হয় সে বিষয় অবগত নন। আমাদের এ বিভাগের মন্ত্রীমহাশয় অনেক সময় মফঃস্বলে যান, কিন্তু দরিদ্র খাতকদের সঙ্গে মেলামেশা করবার সুযোগ তাঁর কম। কিন্তু যে সমস্ত লোক চাটুকার, ধাপ্পাবাজ অথবা স্বার্থান্বেষী, তারা গভর্ণমেন্টের তোয়াজ কোরে নিজেদের কার্য্য সিদ্ধি কোরতে পারেন, তাদের মুখের কথা শুনেই মন্ত্রী মহাশয়রা সাধারণতঃ চোলে আসেন। বাস্তবিক যারা দুঃখ ভোগ কোরছে, তাদের সঙ্গে কথা বলার সময় তাঁদের অতি কম। আমার পূর্ব্ববর্ত্তী বক্তারা বোলেছেন যে Debt Conciliation Board এ দেশের অবস্থা আতঙ্ক সূচক কোরেছে। এতে ধনী লোকেরা এবং মহাজন শ্রেণীর লোকেই মেম্বর হোয়ে তাদের একটা আয় বৃদ্ধির ব্যবস্থা কোরছে। যারা নাকি তাদের কিছু দিবে না, তাদের কোন সুবিধা হবার আশা নাই।

(At this stage the House was adjourned for 15 minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS: সভাপতি মহাশয়, আমি দেখছি ঘর প্রায় খালি, যা হোক Debt Conciliation Board এর মেম্বরদের সম্বন্ধে এখন কিছু বোলবো। এই বোর্ডের মেম্বরদের অনেক সময় অনেক টাকা খরচ কোরতে হয়। কারণ যারা nominated হবেন তাদের মহকুমা হাকিম ও সার্কেল অফিসারদের সন্তুষ্ট না কোরলে হবার উপায় নাই। আর উহাদের সন্তুষ্ট কোরতে হলে অনেক কিছু খরচ কোরতে হয়। সার্কেল অফিসারের পরিদর্শনের সময় তাঁকে সন্তুষ্ট কোরতে হয় এবং পরের বারে যাতে nomination পেতে পারেন সেজন্য কোরতে হয়। কাজেই nomination না হোয়ে যদি election প্রথার প্রবর্ত্তন হতো তাহলে তাঁদের এসব করার আদৌ দরকার হতো না। সরকারী কর্ম্মচারীদের সন্তুষ্ট না কোরে দেশের লোকদের সন্তুষ্ট কোরতে হতো। কারণ লোকদের সন্তুষ্ট না কোরলে পরের বারে আর election এ vote পাওয়া যাবে না। সেই জন্য বর্ত্তমানে প্রচলিত nomination প্রথাটা আপত্তিকর। তিন বৎসর nomination পেয়ে যিনি member আছেন তিনি আবারও nominated হোতে পারেন আইনের এই Provision একটা মারাত্মক কথা। সেই জন্য nominated হওয়ার পর উপরের officer দের সন্তুষ্ট রাখাই প্রাধানতঃ তাদের কর্ত্তব্য হয়। গ্রামের লোকদের একেবারে অত্যাচার কোরে নিঃশেষ কোরে দিলেও nomination পাওয়ার কোন বাধা নাই। এই Debt Settlement Board দ্বারা গ্রামবাসীদের উপকারের চেয়ে অপকার হয়েছে অনেক বেশী। একবারি না হয় খাতকেরা তাদের দেনার জন্য দরখাস্ত কোরে বহু বছরের জন্য কিস্তিবন্দী কোরে নিলে, তারপরে তো তারা আর দরখাস্ত কোরতে পারবে না। তারপর আবার ঋণ গ্রহণ করবার জন্য যদি তারা এসমস্ত মহাজনদের কাছে আবার যান, তখন এই সব মহাজন যারা নাকি ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত Debt Settlement Board এর দ্বারা হবেন তারা সুদে আসলে তাদের সমস্ত ক্ষতির টাকা ২য় বার ঋণ দিবার সময় তুলে নিবার ব্যবস্থা করেন।

Maulvi MD. ABDUL HAKIM VIKRAMPURI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, আমার নামে একটি ছাঁটাই প্রস্তাব আছে। তাহা আমি উত্থাপন করিব না। তবে এ সুযোগে চাষী-খাতক আইন ও ঋণ-সালিশী বোর্ড সম্বন্ধে আমার অভিমত সংক্ষেপে ব্যক্ত করিতেছি।

স্যার, চাষী-খাতক আইনের উদ্দেশ্য স্পষ্ট। বাংলাদেশে শতকরা ৮৫ জন লোক কৃষিকার্য্য করিয়া জীবিকা নির্ব্বাহ করে। ক্রমাগত বড়বৃষ্টি, অনাবৃষ্টি, বন্যা প্রভৃতি দুর্ব্বিপাক; ইঁদুর,

কীটের উপদ্রব; যুদ্ধবিগ্রহ; ব্যবসাবাণিজ্য মন্দা; কৃষিজাত দ্রব্যাদির মূল্যের দ্রুত হ্রাসবৃদ্ধি ইত্যাদি নানাকারণে বাঙ্গলার কৃষকের আর্থিক অবস্থা অতীব শোচনীয় হইয়া পড়ে। বছর বছর কোটি কোটি টাকার ঋণের দুর্বহ হিমালয় তাহার বক্ষে চাপিয়া তাহার সমস্ত অস্তিত্বকে বিলুপ্ত করিয়া ফেলিবার উপক্রম করে—তাহার মৃত্যু অবধারিত এরূপ আশঙ্কা দেখা দেয়। বাঙ্গালী জাতির মেরুদণ্ড এই কৃষককুলের এমন সর্বনাশকর অবস্থা দেখিয়া দেশের চিন্তাশীল, দূরদর্শী ও উদারচরিত রাষ্ট্রনায়কদের দেহমন, দেশ ও জাতির ভবিষ্যৎ লক্ষ্য করিয়া আতঙ্কে শিহরিয়া উঠে। তাহারা যেন দিব্য দৃষ্টিতে দেখিতে পান বাঙ্গালার কোটি কোটি অশিক্ষিত মূক-মূর্খ, দুর্ভিক্ষপীড়িত রোগশোক-জর্জরিত; অপরিণামদর্শী ও অসহায় কৃষককে আসন্ন মৃত্যুর করালগ্রাস হইতে রক্ষা না করিতে পারিলে বাঙ্গালী জাতির—তথা বাঙ্গালীর কল্যাণ নাই, উন্নতি নাই। তাহার শিক্ষাসভ্যতা ও কৃষ্টি, তাহার ধর্ম্ম ও ইতিহাস, তাহার শিল্প, তাহার ব্যবসাবাণিজ্য, তাহার কাব্য ও সঙ্গীতকলা, তাহার স্বাস্থ্য ও সৌন্দর্য্য, তাহার ঐশ্বর্য্য ও সমৃদ্ধি তাহার জাতিগত ও দেশগত বৈশিষ্ট্য ইত্যাদি সবই বিনষ্ট হইয়া যাইবে। তাই তাহারা বাঙ্গালীর কৃষককুলের ঋণভার লাঘব ও পরিশোধের জন্য, তাহাদের আর্থিক জীবনকে উন্নত ও সুদৃঢ় ভিত্তির উপর প্রতিষ্ঠিত করার জন্য প্রকৃত স্বজাতিপ্রেমিক ও দেশসেবকের কর্তব্যপালনে অগ্রসর হন এবং চাষীখাতক আইনের পরিকল্পনা করেন।

কিন্তু স্যার, কোন নূতন আইনই যেমন নির্দ্দোষ ও সর্বাঙ্গসুন্দর হইতে পারে না, আমাদের বর্ত্তমান আলোচ্য আইনও তেমনি নির্দ্দোষ ও সর্বাঙ্গসুন্দর হয় নাই। বরং ইহাতে এতসব গলদ ও দোষত্রুটি রহিয়াছে যে আইনটি দেশে প্রবর্ত্তিত হওয়ার প্রায় সঙ্গে সঙ্গেই দেশবাসী ইহার সংশোধনের প্রয়োজনীয়তা তীব্রভাবে অনুভব করে। বস্তুতঃ যে মহৎ উদ্দেশ্যে এই আইনটি রচিত হইয়াছিল, তাহার অন্তর্নিহিত অসংখ্য দোষ ত্রুটির দরুণ সেই উদ্দেশ্য অধিকাংশস্থলেই ব্যর্থতায় পর্য্যবসিত হইতেছে। ইহার দরুণ সালিশী বোর্ডগুলির কার্য্য পরিচালনা অচলপ্রায় হইয়া পড়িয়াছে। দেশের জনসাধারণ ইহার প্রতি শ্রদ্ধা হারাইয়া ফেলিতেছে। ইহাদ্বারা আপাততঃ নিলামবিক্রয়ের হাত হইতে জমিজমা রক্ষা করা ব্যতীত আর বিশেষ কোন উপকারই চাষী-খাতকগণ পাইতেছে না। অন্য বিষয়ে এমন কিছু আলোচনা করিয়া পরে সংক্ষেপে আইনের কোন কোন দোষত্রুটির আলোচনা করিতেছি।

স্যার, চাষী-খাতক আইনটি ১৯৩৫ সনে তৎকালীন বঙ্গীয় আইন সভায় চূড়ান্তরূপে গৃহীত হওয়ার অনতিবিলম্বেই যদি আইনটি প্রবর্ত্তনের বিশেষ চেষ্টা হইত, তবে হাজার হাজার চাষী-খাতকের জমিজমা রক্ষা পাইত। কিন্তু বড়ই দুঃখের বিষয় তাহা হয় নাই। বঙ্গীয় আইন সভায় উহা পাশ হইবার পর হইতে আরম্ভ করিয়া বড়লাটের সম্মতিলাভের পরেও দেশে উহা প্রবর্ত্তিত হওয়ার সময় পর্য্যন্ত, অসংখ্য চাষী-খাতকের জমিজমা মহাজনের হাতে চলিয়া গিয়াছে। ইহারও অনেক পর গভর্ণমেন্ট বাংলার ২৭টি জিলার মধ্যে কতকগুলি জিলাতে কয়েকটিমাত্র ইউনিয়নে প[illegible], সালিশী বোর্ড গঠনকার্য্য আরম্ভ করেন। ফলে এই হইয়াছে যে এক ইউনিয়নের চাষী খাতক সালিশী বোর্ডের আশ্রয় নিয়া তাহাদের জমিজমা মহাজনের কবল হইতে রক্ষা করার সুযোগ পাইয়াছে, এবং ঠিক তাহারই পার্শ্ববর্ত্তী ইউনিয়নের চাষী-খাতক সে সুযোগ পায় নাই। অথচ তখন সে সব ইউনিয়নে বোর্ড গঠিত হয় না, সে সব ইউনিয়নের খাতকগণ সম্পত্তি রক্ষা করিতে পারে সেই উদ্দেশ্যে কোন স্পেশাল বা বিশেষ বোর্ড গঠিত হয় নাই। ফলে সুচতুর, সুকৌশলী ও শক্তিমান মহাজন গভর্ণমেন্টের এই অপরিণামদর্শিতা ও উদাসীনতার সুযোগে গ্রহণ করিয়া অতি ক্ষিপ্রতার সহিত চাষী-খাতকের জমিজমা আত্মসাৎ করিয়া নিয়াছে। এই আইন যদি না হইত তাহা হইলে মহাজনগণ এত দ্রুত ও ব্যস্ততার সহিত খাতকের যথাসর্বস্ব এইভাবে নালিশ করিয়া নিলাম-বিক্রয় করিত না। ঠিক এই সময় দেশের সর্বত্র হতবাক ও অসহায় খাতকদের মধ্যে একটা ভীষণ চাঞ্চল্য ও উত্তেজনা দেখা দেয়। তাহারা যার যার ইউনিয়নে সাধারণ সালিশী বোর্ড প্রতিষ্ঠার জন্য গভর্ণমেন্টকে অনুরোধ করে। এখানে নিতান্ত দুঃখ ও ক্ষোভের সহিত বলিতে হইতেছে যে তাহাদের করুণ আর্তনাদেও অধিকাংশ জেলা ম্যাজিষ্ট্রেট, মহকুমা ম্যাজিষ্ট্রেট ও সার্কেল

অফিসারের—কোন কোন ক্ষেত্রে স্পেশাল officer দের প্রাণ বিগলিত হয় নাই। প্রতি ইউনিয়নে সালিশী বোর্ডের সভ্য মনোনয়ণ হইতে আরম্ভ করিয়া গেজেট হওয়া পর্যান্ত সরকারী কর্তৃপক্ষগণ অযথা বিলম্ব করেন, এমন কি কোন কোন স্থানে বৎসরকালও বিলম্ব করেন। আমি আমার নিজের মহকুমার কথা বলিতে পারি। এই মহকুমায় ৬০টি ইউনিয়ন বোর্ড আছে। তন্মধ্যে গত তিন বছরকালের মধ্যে অর্দ্ধেকেরও কম ইউনিয়নে সালিশী বোর্ড গঠিত হইয়াছে। আমি নিজে এই বিষয়ে খাতকদের আগ্রহাতিশয্য ও ব্যাকুলতা দেখিয়া তদানিন্তন সার্কেল অফিসার, মহকুমা ম্যাজিষ্ট্রেট ও জিলা ম্যাজিষ্ট্রেটকে ঋণ-সালিশী বোর্ড গঠনের জন্য লিখিতভাবে ও মৌখিক বহুবার অনুরোধ করিয়াছি। তাহারা প্রতিবারই এইরূপ বিলম্বের নানা অযৌক্তিক, অসঙ্গত বাজে কারণ দেখান। আমাদের দৃঢ়বিশ্বাস সরকারী কর্ম্মচারিগণ একটু চেষ্টা ও আগ্রহ করিলেই যথা সম্ভব তৎপরতার সহিত বোর্ডগুলি গঠন করিতে পারেন। আমি অগত্যা এই বিভাগের মন্ত্রী মাননীয় মিঃ মুকুন্দবিহারী মল্লিকের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করি। তিনিও জিলা ম্যাজিষ্ট্রেটকে অনুগ্রহপূর্ব্বক বিক্রমপুরের অধিবাসীদের অনুরোধ জানাইয়াছেন—কিন্তু তেমন কোন ফলদায়ক হয় না। স্যার, বাংলার সর্ব্বত্রই বোধ হয় এই অবস্থা। সরকারী কর্ম্মচারীদের এই উদাসীনতা, কর্ত্তব্যজ্ঞানহীনতা, শৈথিল্য ও হৃদয়হীনতা বড়ই অসহনীয় ও মর্ম্মপীড়াদায়ক। তাহাদের এইরূপ আচরণের মধ্যে ক্রূর-বুদ্ধি, গোপন অনিচ্ছা ও অসঙ্গত মহাজনপ্রীতি যে নিহিত থাকে তাহাতে সন্দেহ নাই। স্যার, সালিশী বোর্ডগুলির গঠনপ্রণালীও মোটেই সন্তোষজনক হয় নাই। মোট ৫ জন সভ্য নিয়া বোর্ড গঠনের নিয়ম। তন্মধ্যে দুইজন খাতকের প্রতিনিধি, দুইজন মহাজনের প্রতিনিধি এবং খাতকও নয় মহাজনও নয় এমন একজন নিরপেক্ষ লোক চেয়ারম্যান থাকিবেন। কিন্তু দুঃখের বিষয় অধিকাংশ ক্ষেত্রেই খাতকের প্রতিনিধিরূপে যাহাদিগকে মনোনীত করা হয় তারা মোটেই খাতক বা খাতকদরদী নয়। তারপর যে ভদ্রলোককে চেয়ারম্যান করা হয়, তিনিও স্বয়ং মহাজন বা প্রচ্ছন্ন মহাজন ভক্ত। স্যার, আইনের অসংখ্য দোষত্রুটি ও গলদের কথা বাদ দিলেও শুধু বোর্ডের সভ্য মনোনয়নের ত্রুটিতেও যে চাষী-খাতক আইনের মূল উদ্দেশ্য ব্যর্থ হইতে বাধ্য, তাহাতে কোন সন্দেহ নাই।

Mr. I. D. JALAN: Sir, I rise to support the cut motion against the demand made by the Hon'ble Minister. While opposing this demand, I wish to lay before the House a few points which are a source of ruin to the economic prosperity of Bengal rather than a source of amelioration of the condition of the people. Government takes great pride in its policy of Debt Conciliation Boards and we have heard on the floor of this House the Hon'ble Minister stating in emphatic terms that our Government has conciliated so much of the debts of the people, but Government ought to remember that it is the economic policy of the Government that counts and they ought to remember that the prosperity of this province depends upon the solid foundation upon which the whole scheme should be based. It is a matter of common knowledge that sanctity of contracts should be preserved by the Government so far as possible. It is only in exceptional circumstances that the sanctity of contracts should be given the go-by. The whole scheme of the Act is such that no regard is being paid to the sanctity of contracts solemnly entered into between people and people. In one of the cases, the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Panckridge stated that "undoubtedly there is much in the Act which may appear startling to one who has been trained in the English system which attaches supreme importance to the principle of the sanctity of contracts." Agreements solemnly entererd into cannot be regarded as mere scraps of paper like the treaties of Germany.

Now, Sir, in order to relieve the agricultural indebtedness of the people who are deeply steeped in indebtedness and who should be anyhow given relief that the Act was designed, but it was never meant that persons under the guise of taking shelter under the Act and whose debts amount not to thousands of rupees but to lakhs and lakhs of rupees, should take advantage of this Act, and thus be a source of great difficulty in adjusting the economic life of this province. I know that personal element has come into this question. The Act, when it was framed, clearly stated that under section 55, a maximum limit may be placed by the Government, but the Government has signally failed to take advantage of the provision and a limit beyond which people should not take shelter under the Bengal Agricultural Debtors Act. When one of the Hon'ble Ministers of the Government, whose debt extends to Rs. 32 lakhs takes shelter under the Bengal Agricultural Debtors Act and get his debt reduced to Rs. 15 lakhs, people cannot expect justice from this Government and this is the reason why the maximum limit has not been imposed.

Now, Sir, so far as this Act is concerned, we know that the personnel of the Boards is absolutely undesirable. People who have got no legal training, who are not in such a position as to be of unquestionable integrity—when such people have got to decide questions affecting not thousands and thousands of rupees but lakhs and lakhs of rupees, I may say that we are living in an age when it is the law of the jungle and not the law of the civilized people that prevail. Cases up to Rs. 2,000 only are decided by the Small Cause Court and if they involve an amount beyond Rs. 2,000 they are decided by the Hon'ble Judges of the High Court and even then an appeal lies therefrom up to the Privy Council for claims exceeding Rs. 10,000. But here a few villagers are sitting in judgment for deciding about debts amounting to lakhs and lakhs of rupees! Does Government seriously consider that it is following a civilized procedure in this matter? I say that Government ought to seriously consider this question and not play to the gallery to show to the people that they have done something for the poor people. They should know that by this policy Government are laying themselves open to very severe criticism. Repeatedly, it has been said that Government has embarked upon this policy without making any provision for the credit of the people whose credit has been destroyed. It is a matter of common knowledge that villagers are not getting credit and as a result, they are in a pitiable condition. Even the *banias* or *mahajans* cannot advance money and Government also cannot advance money. Is it then the policy of the Government to destroy credit, and to ask the people to restore it, and then the people who would restore the credit will be placed in such a position that they cannot realise the amount which they advanced, and they will have to depend upon the whims of a few illiterate villagers who will decide their fate?

Let the Ministry, let the Government, clearly understand that the persons who advance the money are not all big persons having big resources. These are small persons, middle-class people, who have got their claims against the villagers and what is the plight of the middle classes? They have got to pay their liabilities, but they cannot realise their dues and the position is that there is so much of middle-class unemployment that it is bound to lead to great misery.

(Here the hon'ble member having reached his time-limit, resumed his seat.)

Maulvi MAFIZUDDIN AHMED: Debt conciliation is a problem of problems that are sternly facing the agriculturists of Bengal. It is a happy augury that the Bengal Government could fully realise the gravity of this burning problem. Sir, before I enter in detail into the question of debts and possibilities of liquidation, I think I would do better in having just a peep into the actions taken by the Government towards that direction. The present Government, we know, established 3,412 Debt Settlement Boards all over Bengal up till the 31st December, 1938. These Boards received 9,62,000 petitions for settlement of debts involving an amount in the neighbourhood of 30 crores of rupees. Sir, it is a matter of great pleasure that awards have already been given with respect to Rs. 1,82,00,000 and a further sum of Rs. 1,30,00,000 has been determined under section 18 of the Bengal Agricultural Debtors Act.

Sir, these figures speak volumes. They tell their own tales. I need hardly make any comment on that. But I feel I shall be failing in my duty if I do not say that the marvellous success achieved by the present Government towards debt conciliation is alone sufficient to justify the position of the present Huq Ministry. Sir, I join my voice with the millions of the countryside in sincerely congratulating the present Government for the beneficial and ameliorative measures taken by them towards the mitigation of the heavy burden of debts of the agriculturists of Bengal. Sir, I make bold to say that this single Act on the Statute and its thorough and sympathetic working in the rural areas will keep the Huq-Ministry ever green in the grateful memories of the millions of agricultural debtors.

But, Sir, even then, such is the mentality of our honourable friends opposite, particularly the sham friends of the agriculturists, that they will never recognise anything meritorious and laudable in the actions of the Huq Ministry. The Persian poet rightly said " و لیکن قلم در کف دشمن است " (But the pen lies in the hands of the enemies.)

Sir, let us now have a short review of the agricultural debts of Bengal. Improvident and thriftless as the Bengal agriculturists are, during the boom period the future loomed very large to them. They began to borrow recklessly and allowed themselves to be exploited

most ruthlessly by the Shylock-Mahajans who are more properly called "Mahajans". Sir, the pitiable aspect of the picture is that they borrowed money but they never thought to put the same to any productive purposes and mostly spent the borrowed money on wanton pastimes like fighting bulls, race-horses and also in marriage and circumcision ceremonies and erection of tin-huts, etc., etc., so on and so forth. Then the slump came with all its depressing influences. The poor agriculturists found themselves quite stranded. The illiterate agriculturists found to their utter surprise that the blank stamps which they handed over to the *mahajans* after putting their thumb impressions or scribbling their names and took some money, made their appearances in court with an alarmingly huge amount. The greedy, wily and unscrupulous *mahajans* converted those blank stamps into bonds by entering the maximum amount that could be written on the stamps under the maximum amount that could be written on the stamps under the law, though a much smaller amount was advanced. Owing to an abnormal fall in commodity prices the agriculturists found it difficult to make the two ends meet, not to speak of making any payment towards the liquidation of their debts. The result was that the debts of Bengal agriculturists accumulated to a staggering sum in the neighbourhood of 100 crore of rupees or so. The nightmare of debts was heavily pressing upon the breasts of the agriculturists. Their life-blood was being sapped up by the constant anxieties and cares, and particularly by the fearful faces of the *mahajans* or their agents. Their lands were quickly passing into the hands of the *mahajans* by auction sales or by coercive sales. In short, the agriculturists of Bengal were on the verge of being converted into a landless labourer class. The harrowing tales of their sufferings and miseries need hardly be recounted here. But thanks to Sir Nazimuddin, who visualized the danger ahead and successfully sponsored the present Bengal Agricultural Debtors Act in the last Council. Then the present Ministry immediately after assumption of office gave effect to the Act. The drowning agriculturists welcomed the Bengal Agricultural Debtors Act as a saviour and began to flock in thousands to every Debt Settlement Board office.

Sir, I am connected with a special debt settlement board in the district of Tippera, and I can——

(At this stage the member having reached his time-limit resumed his seat.)

Mr. ASIMUDDIN AHMED: I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 21,12,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration—Debt Conciliation" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion on the question of jurisdiction to debt settlement boards to take up and settle disputed cases involving sales of landed properties of debtors that were held from 1930.

মাননীয় সভাপতি মহাশয়, আমি যে এই cut motion টী আলোচনার জন্য উত্থাপন করিতেছি উহার মর্ম্ম এই।

১৯০০ ইং সন হইতে পৃথিবী ব্যাপী আর্থিক সঙ্কট আরম্ভ হওয়ার পর বাংলাদেশের মেরুদণ্ড স্বরূপ চাষী সমাজের যে সকল সম্পত্তি দেনার দায়ে বিগত কয়েক বছর যাবত আদালত যোগে নিলাম হইয়া গিয়াছে ঐ সকল সম্পত্তি যাহাতে সালিশ মূল দায়িক সালিশী বোর্ডের মধ্যস্থতায় মিমাংসা মতে ফেরত পাইতে পারে তজ্জন্য ১৯৩৫ ইং সনের বঙ্গীয় চাষী খাতক আইনটীর ১৯৩০ ইং সন হইতে retrospective effect দেওয়ার ব্যবস্থা করিয়া উহার সংশোধন করা।

Sir, বাংলা কৃষিপ্রধান দেশ। পল্লী-বাংলার অধিবাসীগণের মধ্যে শতকরা প্রায় ৯০ জনই কৃষিজিবী। দুর্ভাগ্য বশতঃ এই কৃষিজিবীগণের মধ্যে শতকরা প্রায় ১০০ জনই ঋণগ্রস্থ। আসল টাকার বহুগুণ সুদবাবতে পরিশোধ করিয়া ও তাহাদের ঋণের পরিমাণ যেরূপ ছিল তেমনই রহিয়াছে। অনেকেরই ভিটিবাড়ী জমিজমা সুদের দাবী হইতে মহাজনের ও অন্যান্য পাওনাদারের হাতে চলিয়া গিয়াছে। ১৯৩৫ ইং সনের বঙ্গীয় চাষী খাতক আইন পাশ হইবার বহু পূর্ব্বে মহাজনগণের এই প্রকার অত্যাচার ও জুলুমের ফলে বহু চাষী পরিবার ভূমি-হারা হইয়া অনাহারে অর্দ্ধাহারে দিন যাপন করিয়া আসিয়াছে। বাংলাদেশের প্রচলিত অন্যায় ভূমি সংক্রান্ত আইনের সঙ্গে বাংলার অমানুষিক অত্যাচারমূলক মহাজনী প্রথাই যে চাষীগণের এই শোচনীয় দুর্দ্দশার কারণ, তৎবিষয় আশাকরি প্রত্যেক চিন্তাশীল ব্যক্তিমাত্রই আমার সহিত একমত হইবেন।

সভাপতি মহাশয়, বিগত ১৯০০ ইং সন হইতে পৃথিবীব্যাপি আকস্মিক অর্থ সঙ্কট সৃষ্টি হওয়ায় এবং তদ্দরুণ বাংলার চাষীগণের একমাত্র সম্বল কৃষিজাত প্রধান ফসল পাট ও ধান ইত্যাদির বাজারদর হটাৎ অপ্রত্যাশিত ও অসম্ভবভাবে কমিয়া যাওয়ায় চাষীগণের এই দুর্গতি ও দুরাবস্থার মাত্রা "মরার উপর খাঁড়ার ঘা"র ন্যায় চরম সীমানায় উপনীত হইয়াছে। ইহার ফলে তখন হইতে সমগ্র বাংলার ঋণগ্রস্থ চাষিগণের বিশেষ করিয়া পাটপ্রধান জিলা সমূহের চাষিগণের প্রায় সকল প্রকার দেনা পরিশোধ করিবার শক্তি বিনষ্ট ত হইয়া গিয়াছেই পরন্তু পেটের ভাত পিঠের কাপড়ের সংস্থান করিয়া নিজ নিজ পরিবার রক্ষা করা অনেক চাষী পরিবারের পক্ষে সুকঠিন হইয়া দাঁড়াইয়াছে।

সভাপতি মহোদয়, Co-operative Department এর বাজেট আলোচনা উপলক্ষে ইউরোপীয়ান পার্টীর সদস্য মিঃ ওয়ার্ডসওয়ার্থ এই Assembly তে বাংলার ঋণগ্রস্থ নিরীহ চাষী সমাজের বিরুদ্ধে যে অনুদার ও কর্কশপূর্ণ মন্তব্য করিয়াছেন আমি উহার তীব্র প্রতিবাদ করিতেছি। বাংলার চাষী খাতকগণ কখনও তাহাদের ন্যায্য দেনা পরিশোধ করিতে বিমুখ হয় নাই। যে কোন প্রকার দেনাই হউক না কেন, বাংলার চাষিগণ বিশেষ করিয়া মুসলমান চাষিগণ উহা পরিশোধ করা তাহাদের ধর্ম্মের অঙ্গ বলিয়া মনে করিয়া আসিয়াছে। এবং এখনও করে। তাহাদের এই সরল বিশ্বাসের সুযোগ গ্রহণ করিয়াই তাহাদেরই হাঁড়ভাঙ্গা পরিশ্রমলব্ধ অর্থ অন্যায়ভাবে শোষণ দ্বারা বাংলার ও বাংলার বাহিরের এক শ্রেণীর শোষক বড়লোক ও ব্যবসায়িগণের বর্ত্তমান এই ঐশ্বর্য্যও বিরাট সম্পদ। আর প্রকৃত ধানোৎপাদনকারী চাষিগণের বর্ত্তমান দুরবস্থা।

আমি সাম্রাজ্যবাদী মিঃ Wordsworth এবং তাঁহার ন্যায় যাহারা চিন্তা করিতে অভ্যস্থ হইয়াছেন, সেই সকল ভদ্রলোকগণকে সসম্ভ্রমে জিজ্ঞাসা করিতে চাই—তাহারা কি চিরকালই তাহাদের শোষণ ও নির্য্যাতননীতি বজায় রাখিতে চান? তাহারা কি——

(Here the member having reached the time limit, resumed his seat.)

The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: I have listened with great attention to the debate that has been raised over this Debt Conciliation Budget when no less than eight honourable members have taken part in it. Sir, I am sorry to have to observe at

the outset that so far as some of the remarks that fell from a few of my friends Messrs. Rasik Lal Biswas, Shyama Prosad Barman and another are concerned, they have been in the nature of abuses upon these honorary workers who have voluntarily come forward to offer their services with the best of motives and to help their neighbours who are so much indebted through their improvident habits. I will just take them and point out to them that it does not lie in our mouths to abuse persons of this nature, for I believe it is by the courtsey and sufferance of many of these gentlemen that many of us are here to-day in this House.

Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS: That may be in your case.

The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: It is in your case as well and perhaps in a much greater degree.

Sir, we have known of instances in the past where a Magistrate or even a Judge has been found guilty of corruption of this nature, but because there have been solitary instances of that type nobody has ever dared suggesting that the whole magistracy or judiciary of the province is corrupt. I do not say that everyone of these 16,000 members who have offered their honorary services is above corruption; but I should have expected responsible members of this House to come forward with definite and specific cases so that Government might enquire into these allegations, if they are at all correct. But no such opportunity was given to Government to examine these cases if such things did really exist But I am now surprised to hear abuses of this nature being showered on such a large number of honorary workers. I have shown by reference to facts and figures the kind of work they have done for the good of the country as a whole. Instead of having something in the nature of thanks, which is certainly due to them, they receive abuses from those who claim to be the representatives of the people of the province. Nothing can be more unfortunate than assertions of this nature.

Now, Sir, before passing on to some of the suggestions made by some of the speakers I should express my extreme gratefulness to three of my friends, Maulana Abdur Razzak, Maulvi Md. Abdul Hakim Vikrampuri and Mr. Mofizuddin Ahmed who have direct knowledge of the working of these Boards for the testimony that they have given as to how these Boards have discharged their responsibilities. With regard to the one little complaint that has been made by my friend Mr. Vikrampuri, I can assure him that I will instruct the District Magistrate of Dacca to go into this question at once and to have the proper number of Boards constituted at an early date. (A VOICE: Why in Dacca alone?) My friends will realise the difficulty that as these Boards are composed of non-official gentlemen, their convenience

has got to be looked to and when they start work they need some kind of guidance in the beginning. We are short of officers. Along with District Officers, Subdivisional Officers and Circle Officers, the number of Special Officers appointed falls far short of our requirements. Regard being had to this difficulty it has not been possible for Government to push on with the establishment of all the Boards immediately, but I have given a sufficient account of what we have done in the past, and I can assure my friends that we are extremely anxious like themselves to see that we have the proper number of Boards established in the province at an early date. With regard to the specific case that has been mentioned by my friend, the Maulana Sahib, I can assure him that I will look into it and see if there is any remedy that can yet be found for the particular matter that happened at Feni. I wish he were good enough to let me have this case before. If he had done so, I would have been able to give him some definite reply by this time.

Sir, some specific points have been raised in this debate—one or two by Mr. Jalan? It is said that Government have not yet fixed the maximum amount that they should do under section 55, sub-section (2) (a) of the Act. We had to take stock of the cases that had happened in the past in order that we might have some justification to fix a particular amount. I can only tell the House at this stage that a decision has been taken by Government, and we are only waiting to have a proper draft of the rule, and perhaps in the course of a week or two the rule fixing the amount that could be dealt with by these Boards would be published for general information.

Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS: What is the maximum amount?

The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: Wait and you will see.

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: For how many years?

The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: With regard to the other question that Mr. Jalan has been good enough to raise that by the working of these Boards a complete go-by has been given to the sanctity of contracts. There I join issue with him. Where is the sanctity of contract between two persons, one of whom took undue advantage of the other's illiteracy, helplessness and distressed circumstances? A man who does not know how to read and write and who is in difficulties goes to his neighbour for help. He is offered some little help. What is put down in the paper he does not understand. It has been our experience and it has been mentioned time and again on the floor of this House that where a poor man of that type

took a loan of Rs. 50, he had to pay Rs. 500 and yet owed a considerable sum as balance. If a contract of that nature could be said to be so sacrosanct that it should not be disturbed, I shall be the last person to agree with a suggestion of this nature. But I do maintain however that for the loan that is advanced, any honest dealer is certainly entitled not only to the principal, but also a reasonable amount for the use of that money in the shape of interest. And so long as he obtains that, he must be satisfied. I do not think that the man has any justification whatever to ask for anything more. The working of these Boards shows that they have not been unmindful of this elementary principle that governs such transactions. Questions have been raised by my friends Mr. Jalan and Mr. Shyama Prosad Barman that the members of these Boards do not have sufficient knowledge of law. I do not understand, Sir, where the knowledge of law comes in. The question is whether or not a man really owes any sum and if he does, what is it that he really owes, and then the paying capacity of the man has to be found out so that the return of the loan could be spread over a certain number of years which the man would not find any difficulty in paying. Now, Sir, it has been said that this process has dried up rural credit. In that connection, my friend, Mr. Mafizuddin Ahmad, has said that the illiterate rural masses of this province have been improvident in their habits, and that whenever they found the money readily available, they did not care to stop from borrowing without any thought as to what might happen in future. They, therefore, came and borrowed any amount of money that they could get. Therefore, if the present situation has done nothing else, it has at least put a check upon the habit of this sort of reckless borrowing.

In the next place, Sir, so far as rural need for money is concerned, we have thought over this question as to what the policy of Government in that direction should be. This was explained by me last week when I closed my budget on Co-operation. Again with regard to this question, Sir, we also took into account the reports submitted from time to time by District Officers in order to ascertain as to whether or not there was any real need for pecuniary help to be given to these rural masses. The proper test that was applied was whether for want of money any single piece of land lay vacant; and I may inform the House that not a single report has been received to that effect. So far as the rural masses are concerned, there is no need of money for helping them out of any difficulty in this direction. But we are not unmindful of the other point, and from that point of view I have explained the position of Government.

Another question has been raised by Mr. Abdur Razzak. It was in connection with the statement made by Sir John Anderson on the occasion of the St. Andrew's Day Dinner. Maulana Shahib said that since that statement was made by the then Governor of this Province the

mahajans were very quick in coming forward with their claims before civil courts and after getting their decrees they executed the same and brought their holdings to sale. I may state that the Government may be prepared to consider these cases as to whether or not any relief can be given to them. This is, however, a very difficult problem, and all that I can say is that since the time when the Bill was published, I might be able to examine the position and see if any relief could be thought of, so far as these cases of hardship were concerned. Beyond this it is very difficult for me to say anything at this stage.

Sir, I believe I have been able to reply to some of the observations in a general manner.

Now, coming to Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal who raised a very intricate question suggesting that Government might buy up all credit, as settled, by issuing debentures. What is the value of these debentures unless the debentures find a ready market? It will only be a piece of paper and it may give some little pecuniary advantage to Government if they come forward and buy them up at such reduced rates. All I can say at this stage is that I shall look into this question and see if any feasible solution can be made out of this.

Sir, I believe that this disposes of all the points that have been raised and I hope that the members opposite would be prepared to withdraw their cut motions, otherwise I must oppose them.

The motion of Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal that the demand of Rs. 21,12,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration—Debt Conciliation" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Shyama Prosad Barman that the demand of Rs. 21,12,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration—Debt Conciliation" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Rasik Lal Biswas that the demand of Rs. 21,12,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration—Debt Conciliation" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Maulvi Asimuddin Ahmed that the demand of Rs. 21,12,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration—Debt Conciliation" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The main motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Munkunda Behary Mullick that the demand of Rs. 21,12,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration—Debt Conciliation" was then put and agreed to.

28—Jails and Convict Settlements.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Sir on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 33,73,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "28—Jails and Convict Settlements".

As the Chief Whip of the Congress Party is very anxious that I should not take up the time of this House at this stage, I do not propose to make a speech now.

Mr. MANORANJAN BANNERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to move that the demand of Rs. 33,73,000 under the head "Jails and Convict Settlements" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the desirability of a thorough overhauling of the system of jail administration.

Sir, the method of dealing with the problem of crimes and criminals has, of late, undergone considerable change in most of the civilized countries of Europe and America. The old conception of meeting crimes with severe punitive measures is slowly and steadily giving place to more enlightened and humane treatment of criminals based on the idea that every act of crime is attributable to a fit of temporary insanity. Consistently with this point of view the civilized states in the Western countries are realising more and more that their responsibilities do not end with simply taking steps to prevent the commission of crimes, but also consist in adopting a system of jail administration which would have for its object the transformation of jail birds into useful citizens after they have served out their respective terms of imprisonment. It is also generally admitted by the modern authorities that the jail administration should further be to effect such reformation in the character of the criminal as will help him again to take his place in society and become a useful citizen.

Judged by this test, the jail administration in our province is still in its primitive state. While our Government can hardly point to any tangible achievement of a constructive nature calculated to secure the moral and material advancement of its jail population as is to be found in more progressive states, it can certainly claim an unenviable distinction in the large number of prisoners who have developed tuberculosis and insanity or been otherwise ruined in health permanently while undergoing jail life.

Sir, Home Minister after Home Minister in this unfortunate province have been loud in their praise of the system of jail administration which has prevailed during their regime and have sought to delude us with the statistics that the jails in Bengal are like so many sanatoria where prisoners get far more opportunities of improving their body and mind than they would normally have outside the jail. May I ask

the Home Minister that if there be nothing in the jail system which obtains here to sap the vitality of the people, how is it that every year so many of the persons committed to the care of this department die or are attacked with tuberculosis, or are driven to insanity or otherwise become permanently ruined in health. Instead of indulging in false praise of their jail system in Bengal, I would request our Home Minister to turn his attention to the much maligned Congress Provinces where shortly after assumption of power by the Congress Ministers reforms are being gradually introduced in their jail administration. The Home Minister of the United Provinces got a representative committee appointed and has entrusted it with the task of overhauling thoroughly the jail administration in the province on up-to-date lines which are being followed in the advanced countries. This committee has submitted its report which promises to change the basic principle of jail administration, which will henceforth look upon every criminal as the victim of disease requiring careful treatment by experts in reformatories rather than vindictive and heartless punishment in the cells. The noble example of the United Provinces Government in this direction is going to be followed by the Bihar Government, which has recently appointed a committee of experts for the same purpose.

Sir, while these innovations are being attempted in this most important branch of the administration in the sister provinces, the Government of Bengal sits unmoved and unresponsible to popular demads. May I ask when our Home Minister will wake up to the requirements of the situation in this province?

Sir, the jail administration in Bengal requires more tactful handling than in most of the provinces in view of the fact of the presence of a large number of political prisoners, who, by all accepted canons of penology, deserve to be treated on a different footing from other classses of prisoners. Now, Sir, this is an issue over which the Hon'ble the Home Minister and other persons of his way of thinking have never been able to appreciate the overwhelming volume of public opinion expressed all over the country.

Instead of according a more humane and sympathetic treatment towards the political prisoners, the Government here have persisted in a system which takes no account of their social status and their education. If only the Government remembered that these prisoners were to-day inside the prison-bars on account of their political connection and the offences with which they stood charged were not actuated by any sordid motive of pessonal gain, the case for their better treatment and more humane treatment would become irresistible. Drawn as most of the political prisoners are from the educated middle-classes of Bengal, it is intellectual starvation which they complain most. I fail to understand how the mighty British Empire would fall to pieces if these political prisoners were allow to read books and newspapers.

In this connection, Sir, I would read out for the information of the Hon'ble the Home Minister certain extracts relating to classification of prisoners, etc., from the "Public Information" for March, 1939, published by the Government of the United Provinces and also as to how they treat their political prisoners. These extracts will be found on page 86 of the publication. They are as follows:—

"The Committee recommends that there should be two classes of prisoners—political and non-political. Political prisoners are defined as those who have been convicted of an offence committed with a political motive (but not with the idea of personal gain) exception being made in the case where the offence has been committed with communal or sectarian bias, communal offences are very injurious to the progress of the country, and a man who commits them should not be entitled to any special treatment."

As regards political prisoners, the recommendations are as follows:—

"It is recommended that (*a*) all political prisoners should be concentrated in one jail, (*b*) they should have freedom of association, (*c*) they should be allowed one paper of their own choice at Government expense and should also be allowed to purchase others at their own expense, (*d*) they should be supplied with writing materials, and proper arrangements for light should be made, (*e*) the diet, bedding, and clothing allowed to them should be the same as at present allowed to "B" class prisoners, with permission to supplement them at their own expense, (*f*) they should be permitted to write one letter a week and should be allowed any number of letters addressed to them,—urgent letters should be delivered at once, (*g*) they should be permitted one interview per week, (*h*) the games at present allowed to "A" and "B" class prisoners should be allowed to them and they should be permitted to keep musical instruments at their own expense.....", etc.

These, Sir, are the reforms introduced in the jails of the provinces administered by Congress Ministries. I would request the Hon'ble the Home Minister to follow the example of sister provinces and to introduce reforms on those lines in Bengal.

Sir, in this connexion I need hardly remind the Hon'ble the Home Minister that many of the Ministers who are now adorning the Cabinet in the Congress provinces were till recently serving out their terms of imprisonment as political prisoners. Who knows that the same

history will not be repeated in Bengal much sooner than many of the members of the present Government expect? (Cries of "Hear, hear" from Congress benches.)——

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Mr. L. M. CROSFIELD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of the European Party, I oppose the cut motion

Sir, I am one of those visionary people who look forward to a time when criminals will be treated by doctors by adjusting gland secretions.

This is the logical end of present developments in the penal systems of the world.

Reform takes the place of punishment. No longer is it the aim of a jail system to "grind rogues honest" but by kindly treatment and reasoning, through satisfactory personal contacts and by education, to induce in convicts a realisation that they have sinned against society and a desire to become better social animals. And this House, Sir, can take pride in the fact that Bengal is keeping pace with these developments. Not merely was the principle of reform rather than punishment accepted by Government long ago but it is also in active practice.

And had honourable members taken advantage of the Hon'ble the Home Minister's invitation to hear on the 1st March on account of the progress made and expected, the greater part of this debate would have been unnecessary.

They would have learned then of the plans behind certain seemingly unimportant items in the budget.

I particularly commend the provision of more family quarters for jail staff which will secure for them amenities without which their lives inevitably tend to be straightened by the circumstances of their employment. Training facilities for warders are, I understand, to follow and arrangements for their recreation: since the most important step in the reform of a criminal is to provide sound personal contacts this move together with the endeavour of Government to attract the best class of Bengalis to prison service cannot but have good results.

Towards this end also provision is made towards the appointment of whole-time Superintendents for muffassal jails instead of making these posts a part-time care of Civil Surgeons, who are already overworked.

I also commend the provision made for the deputation of two officers to study the latest developments in prison practice in England: I think this will be decidedly more valuable than sending them to certain States on the Continent of Europe.

Notable also is the increased provision for the education of convicts, in strengthening the teaching staff in jails and in the Borstal School.

As regards jail industries, I appreciate the difficulty of teaching trades to the vastly preponderating short-term prisoners, but I commend what

is being done in this direction particularly in selecting for individual prisoners those trades which will be best suited for their environment on release.

Though Reformatories properly come into the Education Grant, I must here most heartily commend the transfer of the Alipore Reformatory, for which 2 lakhs are provided, to better surroundings at Tollygunge where it will be re-established on the modern cottage principle: its capacity is also to be increased which will enable the admirable Bengal Children's Acts to be extended to areas beyond Calcutta. This marks a most important step forward which will go far towards reducing juvenile crime in Bengal. I, therefore sincerely hope that no time will be lost in the re-establishment of the Reformatory School at Tollygunge.

Time does not permit me to refer to the measures taken to improve Jail buildings, to give them better hospital facilities, particularly for the treatment of tubercular patients and lepers, but, Sir, I think that we know enough to agree that in this department certainly no charge of a lack of comprehensive planning can fairly be levelled against Government.

In fact, Sir, behind the jail administration of Bengal lies a comprehensive series of reforms by which those interested are profoundly impressed.

With these words, Sir, on behalf of the European Party, I support the grant.

Mr. SYED AHMED KHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, জেল সম্বন্ধে মন্ত্রীমহোদয়ের খরচের দাবি হইতে ১০০৲ টাকা ছাটাই প্রস্তাব সম্বন্ধে আমার বক্তব্য এই যে জেলখানায় কয়েদীদের উপর যে সাংঘাতিক দুর্ব্যবহার করা হয় সে সমস্ত কাহিনী শুনলে হৃদয় বিদীর্ণ হইয়া যায়। জেলখানা প্রতিহিংসার জায়গা নয়, জেলখানায় অপরাধীদের পাঠানো হয় তাকে ভালো করার জন্য। বাইরে মানুষ চুরি, ডাকাতি, খুন ইত্যাদি করে—তারজন্য তাকে চরিত্র সংশোধন কোরে ভালো হয়ে আসবার জন্য জেলে পাঠান হয়। সুতরাং যাতে তারা ভালো হতে পারে জেলে সেই বন্দোবস্ত করা উচিত। কিন্তু যারা জেলখানায় গিয়াছে, আমি নিজেও বহুবার জেলে গিয়াছি এবং সেখানে যা দেখেছি তাতে জেলখানাকে চুরিবিদ্যার training school বোল্লে কিছুই অত্যুক্তি করা হয় না। জেলখানায় যে কর্ম্মচারীরা আছে তারা কয়েদীদের জিনিষপত্র চুরি কোরে খায়। আর জেলখানার প্রহরীরা তাদের তামাক, গাঁজা ইত্যাদি চুরি কোরে খেতে শেখায়। তাছাড়া নানাবিধ খারাপ কাজ শিক্ষা দেয়। সামান্য সামান্য ব্যাপারে কয়েদীদের যেরকম মারপিট করা হয় সে সব সভ্য সমাজে প্রকাশের অযোগ্য। তাছাড়া সেখানে কয়েদীদের লেখাপড়া শিখাবার বা সদুপদেশ দেবার কোন বন্দোবস্ত নাই। ছোট ছোট ছেলেরা যারা জেলে যায় তাদের চরিত্র সংশোধন ও লেখাপড়া শিক্ষার ব্যবস্থা করা যে বিশেষ দরকার একথা সকলেই স্বীকার কোরবেন, কিন্তু তার কোন সুবন্দোবস্ত নাই। আলিপুর ও প্রেসিডেন্সী জেলে প্রায় ৩।৪ শত juvenile কয়েদী পড়াশুনা করে। তাদের জন্য মাত্র দুই জেলে ৪ জন শিক্ষক নিযুক্ত আছেন। তার ভিতর ২ জন অবাঙ্গালী। এই ব্যবস্থা যথেষ্ট নয়। তাছাড়া ছোট ছেলেদের বড়দের কাছ থেকে পৃথক রাখারও কোন বন্দোবস্ত নাই। জেলখানায় তাদের নিদারুণ খাটুনি খাটানো হয় এবং পশুর চেয়েও নির্ম্মমভাবে তাদের দিয়ে ঘানি টানানো হয়। ইহা অবিলম্বে বন্ধ করা উচিত। দিনের দারুণ খাটুনির পর রাত্রে তারা ঘুমুতে পারে না। বিছানা

বা বন্দারির কোন বন্দোবস্তই নাই। যে কম্বল তাদের দেওয়া হয় সে অত্যন্ত খারাপ জিনিষে তৈরী। সে কম্বল ব্যবহার কোরে নানাপ্রকারের রোগ দেখা দেয় এবং সে কম্বলে একরকমের পোকা আছে, সেজন্যেও কম কষ্ট পেতে হয় না। বিছানার চাদর বোলে কোনরকম পদার্থের নামই সেখানে শুনা যায় না। শীতগ্রীষ্ম সব ঋতুর জন্যই নানাপ্রকার বিষাক্ত পশুর লোমে তৈয়ারী একই রকম কম্বল দেওয়া হয়; বিছানার চাদর বলে সুতার তৈয়ারী কোন জিনিষ মোটেই দেওয়া হয় না। তৃতীয় শ্রেণীর কয়েদীকে যা নাকি খেতে দেওয়া হয় তা কোন মানুষ খেতে পারে না। Sample স্বরূপ কতকগুলি জিনিষ রাখে ডাক্তার এসে সেই জিনিষগুলি দেখে কিন্তু তিনি চোলে গেলেই নানাপ্রকার খারাপ জিনিষ দিয়ে থাকে। সেজন্য কোনরকম enquiry পর্য্যন্ত হয় না। তাদের মাছ, মাংস প্রভৃতি উপযুক্ত খাদ্য কিছুই পরিমাণমত দেওয়া হয় না। রোগ হলে ওষুধের কোন বন্দোবস্ত নাই। জেলখানায় যেসব ডাক্তার আছেন ওষুধের নামে তারা শিশিতে পুরে জল mixture দেন। সে ঔষধের বিষয় ডাক্তারকে কিছু বল্লে কয়েদীদের কুবাক্য বোলে উড়িয়ে দেয়। তাছাড়া তৃতীয় শ্রেণীর রোগীদের চিঠিপত্র লেখারও কোন সুবিধা নাই। এবং interview এর সময় ঠিকভাবে দেখা কোরতে দেওয়া হয় না। চিঠিপত্র লেখা ও interview এর বেশী সুবিধা দেওয়া উচিত। যারা আত্মীয়স্বজন থেকে বহুদূরে থাকে, তাদের প্রতি যে নির্দ্দয় ব্যবহার করা হয় তার কোন প্রতিকার তারা পায় না। জেল কয়েদীদের যে কঠোর শাস্তি দেওয়া হয়—সে শাস্তি বিধানের ক্ষমতা বাইরের কোন কোন অফিসারদের দিলে ভালো হয়। জেলে কাপড় পরিষ্কার করার বন্দোবস্ত নাই বল্লেই হয়। একটু কোরে সাজিমাটি ৭ দিন পর দেওয়া হয়। সে সাজিমাটিতে কাপড়চোপর ডোবানোমাত্রেই আগে যেটুকু পরিষ্কার ছিলো তার চেয়ে আরো ময়লাই হয়। মফঃস্বল জেলের লাইব্রেরীগুলিতে পড়বার জন্য কোন উপযুক্ত বই নাই। এমন কি যারা হাজতে আছে, যাদের কোন শাস্তি হয় নাই, তাদেরও পড়বার জন্য কোন বইপুস্তক দেওয়া হয় না। তাদেরও নাকি যা খেতে দেওয়া হয় তাও প্রায়শঃই খারাপ থাকে। তাদেরও কোনরকম চলাফেরা করবার বা খেলাধুলা বা ব্যায়াম ইত্যাদি করার কোন সুযোগ দেওয়া হয় না। এই হলো মোটামোটি আমাদের জেলখানাগুলির অবস্থা।

Maulvi MD. ABDUL HAKIM VIKRAMPURI: Mr Speaker, Sir, বর্ত্তমান যুগে পৃথিবীর সকল সভ্য দেশেই জেল বিভাগের ও জেল বিধানের এরূপ সংস্কার ও উন্নতি সাধিত হইয়াছে যে তাহা দেখিয়া চমৎকৃত হইতে হয়। কিন্তু দুঃখের বিষয় পৃথিবীর অন্যতম সুসভ্য বৃটিশ গভর্ণমেন্টের শাসনাধীনে বহু যুগ অতিবাহিত হওয়া সত্ত্বেও বঙ্গীয় জেল বিধান ও জেল শাসনের আশানুরূপ সংস্কারসাধন করা হইতেছে না। আমাদের জেলসমূহে প্রাচীন যুগের অচল ও বর্ব্বর বিধান ও শাসনব্যবস্থা সমূহের অনেকগুলি এখনও বিরাজমান। ফলে জেল বিভাগের অন্যতম ও প্রধান উদ্দেশ্য যাহা, তাহা ব্যর্থ হইতেছে। স্বরাষ্ট্র বিভাগ গত বছর এবিষয়ে আমাদের অভিমত ও প্রস্তাব চাহিয়া পত্র দিয়াছিলেন। আমরা সেসময় আমাদের বিস্তৃত অভিমত লিখিয়া জানাইয়াছি। আজ শুধু জেলের কয়েদীদের ধর্ম্ম ও নীতিশিক্ষা সম্বন্ধে কিছু বলিব। কারারুদ্ধ লোকদিগকে ধর্ম্ম ও নীতিশিক্ষা দেওয়ার প্রয়োজনীয়তা সম্বন্ধে আমিই যে আজ নূতন আলোচনা করিতেছি তা নয়। এবিষয়ে বহু চিন্তাশীল ও অভিজ্ঞ ব্যক্তি ইতঃপূর্ব্বে আলোচনা ও আন্দোলন করিয়াছেন। দুঃখের বিষয় এতদ্দেশের গভর্ণমেন্টের মনোযোগ এইরূপ একটি অত্যাবশ্যক বিষয়ের দিকে এখনও তেমন আকৃষ্ট হইতেছে না। গভর্ণমেন্ট এখনও কোন কার্য্যকর পরিকল্পনা নিয়া কারা সংস্কারে অগ্রসর হইতেছেন না। গভর্ণমেন্ট কি ইহার আশু প্রয়োজনীয়তা ও গুরুত্ব অনুভব করেন না? আমাদের মতে কারাসংস্কারের প্রধান না হউক অন্যতম অবশ্যকরণীয় কাজ হওয়া উচিত কারাবাসীদিগের ধর্ম্ম ও নীতিশিক্ষার ব্যবস্থা করা। যেসব লোক কারাদণ্ডে দণ্ডিত হয় তাহাদের সকলেই যে স্বভাবচোর বা ডাকাত বা স্বভাবতঃই অপরাধপ্রবণ তাহা নয়। ইহাদের অনেকেই ক্ষণিক মানসিক দুর্ব্বলতাবশে দারিদ্র্যের কুঘাতে, অবস্থাবিপর্য্যয়ে, দুর্বিত

পারিপার্শ্বিকতার দরুণ এবং নীতি ও ধর্ম্মশিক্ষার অভাবে ডাকাতি, চৌর্য্যবৃত্তি অবলম্বন করে বা অন্য কোন অপরাধজনক কার্য্য করে। গভর্ণমেন্ট ইচ্ছা ও চেষ্টা করিলেই নানা সংস্কারমূলক কার্য্যের প্রবর্ত্তন করিয়া এ শ্রেণীর লোকদের প্রকৃতির পরিবর্ত্তন সাধন করিতে পারেন।

ইহাতে অনেক চুরী, ডাকাতি বা অন্য গুরুতর অপরাধজনক কাজ বহুল পরিমাণে নিবারিত হইতে পারে। কিন্তু বর্ত্তমানে আমরা কার্য্যতঃ কি দেখিতে পাই! বর্ত্তমান কারাবিধান ইহার বিপরীত দেখিতে পাই। বর্ত্তমানে কারাগারে কোনপ্রকার ধর্ম্ম ও নীতি শিক্ষার ব্যবস্থা নাই। বরং কারাগারের দূষিত আবহাওয়া এবং নির্ম্মম ও অকল্যাণকর ব্যবস্থার দরুণ কারারুদ্ধ লোকেরা মনুষ্যত্বহীন ও অপদার্থ হইয়া জেল হইতে বাহির হয়। কারাগারের নূতন পুরাতন সকল দণ্ডিত ব্যক্তিকেই এক সঙ্গে রাখা হয়। তাহারা এক সঙ্গে আহার বিহার করে ও নিদ্রা যায় ও পরস্পরের সঙ্গে নানা বিষয় আলাপ আলোচনা ও পরামর্শ করে। এইরূপ লঘু ও গুরু অপরাধে দণ্ডিত নূতন বন্দীরা পুরাতন দাগী চোরডাকাতদের সংস্পর্শে আসিয়া পাকা চোরডাকাত হইয়া বাহির হয় এবং সমাজের বৃহত্তর ক্ষেত্রে সংগোপনে সমাজে দুর্ব্বলচিত্ত, নিরীহ ও নির্দ্দোষ লোকদিগকে নানা প্রলোভনবাক্যে চৌর্য্যবৃত্তি বা অন্য কোন অপরাধজনক কার্য্য শিক্ষা দেয়। এভাবে সমাজের চোরডাকাত জালিয়াত ইত্যাদির সংখ্যা বৃদ্ধি পায়। এইজন্য পুলিশ কর্ম্মচারীদিগকেও অনেক সময় বিব্রত হইতে হয়—সর্ব্বদা ইহাদের প্রতি সতর্ক দৃষ্টি রাখিতে হয়। তাহাতেও অনেকক্ষেত্রে সফলকাম হয় না। কাজেই সমাজের শৃঙ্খলা ও শান্তিপ্রিয় লোকেরা এরূপ অপরাধপ্রবণ লোকদের ভয়ে মান-ইজ্জত ও ধর্ম্মপ্রাণ নিয়া সর্ব্বদা আতঙ্কগ্রস্ত থাকে, আমাদের মতে সকল শ্রেণীর কারাবাসীদের এরূপ অবাধ মেলামেশা ও আলাপআলোচনা বাঞ্ছনীয় নয়। আমাদের মনে হয় অপরাধের পার্থক্য অনুসারে কারাবাসীদের মধ্যে শ্রেণীবিভাগ করিয়া প্রত্যেককে নিদ্রা ও বিশ্রামের জন্য পৃথক প্রকোষ্ঠ দেওয়া উচিত। ধর্ম্ম ও নীতিশিক্ষা; কৃষি ও শিল্পকার্য্য এবং আহারের সময় ব্যতীত অন্য সময় তাহারা যাহাতে পরস্পর মেলামেশা ও আলাপপরামর্শের সুযোগ না পায় সেদিক লক্ষ্য রাখা দরকার। উল্লিখিত কার্য্যের সময়ও তাহারা যাহাতে অপরাধজনক বা দুর্নীতিমূলক কোন আলোচনা বা পরামর্শ করিতে না পারে সেদিকে জেল কর্ত্তৃপক্ষদের তীব্র লক্ষ্য রাখা দরকার। ধর্ম্ম ও নীতি শিক্ষা প্রদানের জন্য লোকের অভাব হইবে না; এমন কি বিনা পারিশ্রমিকেও সময় সময় লোক পাওয়া যাইবে। তবে কি প্রণালীতে উহা শিক্ষা দেওয়া যাইতে পারে তাহা বিস্তৃত আলোচনার সময় বলা যাইতে পারে। কারাবাসীদিগকে স্ব স্ব নমাজ, রোজা, সন্ধ্যা, আহ্নিক ইত্যাদি ধর্ম্মানুষ্ঠানগুলি এবং পর্ব্বদিনগুলি পালনের যথাসম্ভব সুযোগসুবিধা দেওয়া উচিত।

Sir, দাঙ্গাহাঙ্গামা, চুরিডাকাতি, জমিজমা, বাড়ীঘর ইত্যাদির সীমানা নিয়া বা অন্য কোন দণ্ডবিধি অপরাধে অভিযুক্ত লোকদিগকে ধরিয়া আনিয়া হাজতে রাখা হয়। ইহাদের মধ্যে অনেক নীরিহ, নির্দ্দোষ ও ধর্ম্মাচরণনিষ্ঠ লোকও থাকে। আমরা নিজেরা দেখিয়াছি এরূপ লোকদের মধ্যে ৫০ হইতে ৮০।৯০ বছর বয়স্ক পক্ককেশ, শ্বেতশ্মশ্রুসমন্বিত এবং শুভ্রবেশ ও টুপীয় বা টুপি পরিহিত ধর্ম্মপরায়ণ ব্যক্তিও থাকে। ইহাদিগকে দেখিলে মনে শ্রদ্ধার উদ্রেগ হয়। ইহাদের মধ্যে এমনও আছে যাহারা একবেলা নমাজ ও কোরআন শরীফ না পড়িলে বা একদিন রোজা না রাখিলে অস্থির হইয়া পড়ে। অথচ তাহারা নামাজ পড়িতে ও রোজা ইত্যাদি রাখিতে পারে না—সুযোগও পায় না। ইহা নিতান্তই গর্হিত।

Sir, "An idle brain is a devil's workshop" অলসমস্তিষ্ক শয়তানের কারখানা।

Mrs. HEMAPROVA MAJUMDAR: মাননীয় সভাপতি মহাশয়, জেল সম্বন্ধে অনেক আলোচনা এখানে হয়েছে। আমি দুএকটা কথা শুধু বলবো আমাদের হোম মন্ত্রী মহাশয়কে। কারণ আমি সরকারের অনুগ্রহে এক বৎসর জেলে থেকে জেলের অত্যাচার কয়েদীদের উপর কি রকম হয় সেটা নিজের চোখে দেখে এসেছি। অনেক কথা বলা হয়েছে, আমি এখানে শুধু বলবো মেয়েদের কথা। মন্ত্রী বাহাদুরকে আমি বোলবো—তিনি যেন শুধু কানে শুনে এর বিচার না করেন। তিনি

যদি একবার দয়া কোরে চোখে গিয়ে দেখেন, জেলের কর্ম্মচারীদের না জানিয়ে যদি সেখানে যান তাহলেই দেখতে পাবেন যে তাদের সেখানকার ব্যবস্থা কি! (A member from the Coalition group রাজা কর্ণেন পশ্যতি)

মেয়েদের যে কাপড় জেল খানায় দেওয়া হয় তার ওজন বোধ করি সাত সেরের কম নয়। এবং সপ্তাহে একবার সাজিমাটি দেওয়া হয় সেই কাপড় কাচবার জন্যে। বিচার করে দেখুন কি করে সাজিমাটি দ্বারা মেয়েরা ঐ সব কাপড় কাচতে পারে? জেলের rule যা আছে সে সব পোড়লে সকলেই মনে কোরবেন বেশ ভালো ব্যবস্থা। কম্বল তাদের দেওয়া হয়---আমার পূর্ববর্ত্তী এক বক্তা বোলেছেন,—সেই কম্বলের মধ্যে কতরকম পোকা আছে, তাদের কামড়ায়। সেই একটা কম্বল গরমকালের জন্য ও শীতের জন্য, তাদের মশারি দেওয়া হয় না। কি রকম মশা সেখানে একদিন যদি মন্ত্রী বাহাদুর সেখানে খানিক দাঁড়িয়ে থাকেন তাহলে টের পাবেন সে মশার কামড় কি রকম।

তারপর তাঁরা আইন কোরছেন চরিত্র সংশোধনের জন্য। সেখানে পুরুষ কয়েদীরাই জল দেয়। তাদের সমুখে স্নানের সময় তাদের খালি গায়ে থাকতে হয়। কিন্তু ফাইলের দিন সবই অতি চমৎকার। ঝাড়ু দিয়ে ফিনাইল ঢেলে সব পরিষ্কার করা হয়। সেদিন সাহেব এসে দেখে যান যে কয়েদীরা অতি সুন্দরভাবে থাকে। যাক আমি মেয়েদের সম্বন্ধেই বিশেষ কোরে বোলছি। মেয়েদের মাথার তেলের কোন ব্যবস্থা নাই। আমি অনুরোধ কোরছি, মন্ত্রী বাহাদুরকে তাদের জন্য যেন নারকেল তেলের ব্যবস্থা করা হয়। তারপর জেল রুলে আছে যে, কয়েদীরা যা উৎপন্ন কোরবে সেটা তাদেরই প্রাপ্য। অনেক ভালো ভালো কপি, আলু এবং আরো অনেক রকমের তরকারী কয়েদীরা উৎপন্ন করে---কিন্তু আমরা দেখেছি---তাদের খেতে দেওয়া হয় শুকনো ডাটা, শুকনো কপি, বীট, এই সব। আমরা যখন কাছ দিয়ে গেছি তখন ঐ সব শুকনো কপি, বীট, প্রভৃতির দুর্গন্ধ অনেক সময় টের পেয়েছি। সেগুলো আবার অম্নি কাটা যায় না কুড়োল দিয়ে কাটতে হয়। আমাদের মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ের অবগতির জন্য বোলছি---মূলো শুকিয়ে রাখা হয়, ডাঁটা শুকিয়ে রাখা হয় কয়েদীদের জন্য। সকাল থেকে সন্ধ্যা পর্য্যন্ত মেহনৎ কোরে যারা কত সব ভালো ভালো তরকারী প্রস্তুত করে সে তাদের ভাগ্যে জোটে না। আমি অনুরোধ করি মন্ত্রী বাহাদুরকে, যে শীঘ্র তিনি একটা non-official committee গঠন করুন, এবং আমাদের এদিকের মেম্বরদের সঙ্গে নিয়ে সেখানে যেয়ে দেখুন যে মানুষকে সংশোধন করে---তার চরিত্রকে শুদ্ধ করবার জন্যই সেখানে নেওয়া হয় না তারবিপরীতটা করা হয়।

Dr. SHARAT CHANDRA MUKHERJI: I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 33,73,000 for expenditure under the head "28—Jails and Convict Settlements" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about T. B. hospitals in Bengal Jails and the condition of latrine system of District Jails.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, আমি 25—Jails and Convict Settlements সম্বন্ধে দুইটী ছাটাই প্রস্তাব আনতে চাই। একটী ২৯নং, অপরটী ৩০নং। ইতিপূর্ব্বে অন্যান্য বিভাগে বহু সদস্য গুরুতর বিষয়ের আলোচনা করিয়া বিভিন্ন প্রস্তাব আনিয়াছেন। আমার প্রস্তাব দুটী বাহ্যত ক্ষুদ্র বিষয় সম্ভূত বলিয়া মনে হইলেও ইহার বিশেষ যে গুরুত্ব আছে তাহা আমি প্রমাণ করিব। অবশ্য ইহার পরিণতি কি হইবে তাহা আমি জানি। আমাদের পরিষদের কার্য্যকলাপ দেখিলে ইহাকে একটী প্রেক্ষাগৃহ বলিয়া মনে হয়। সদস্যগণের বক্তৃতার কথা চিন্তা করিলে তরজার লড়াইয়ের কথা মনে পড়ে। ইহা যে আইন পরিষদ, এবং এখানে একটা বিরাট প্রদেশের ভাগ্য নিয়ন্ত্রিত হয় একথা মোটেই মনে হয় না। মাননীয় মন্ত্রিগণ যেন নাটকাভিনয় করিয়া থাকেন; এবং তাঁহাদের দলভুক্ত সকলে তাঁহাদের সঙ্গীতের সুরের

তান ধরিয়া থাকেন। অপরপক্ষ হইতে যে কোনও সংশোধন বা ছাটাই প্রস্তাব সুদৃঢ় যুক্তির উপর প্রতিষ্ঠিত হইয়া আসিলেও অবশ্য কর্ত্তব্য হিসাবে তাহার বিরুদ্ধাচরণ করিয়া মন্ত্রীপক্ষ আত্মপ্রসাদ লাভ করেন। দেশের অগণিত জনসাধারণের অভিযোগ দুঃখ দারিদ্র্যের কথা ভুলিয়া গিয়া তাঁহারা অপরপক্ষকে আপত্তিকর ভাষায় গালিগালাজ করিয়া মনে মনে গৌরবান্বিত মনে করেন। সুতরাং আমাদের দিক হইতে কোন প্রস্তাবই হয় তো গৃহিত হইবে না। একথা নিশ্চিতভাবে জানিয়াও আমি মাত্র কর্ত্তব্যের অনুরোধে আমার প্রস্তাব উপস্থাপিত করিব। আমার একান্ত অনুরোধ, যেন মাননীয় সদস্যগণ ইহাকে উপেক্ষা না করিয়া নিরপেক্ষভাবে গ্রহণ করেন।

আমি জেল বিভাগে চিকিৎসক হিসাবে নিযুক্ত ছিলাম। কোনও সময়ে বন্দী হিসাবেও থাকিবার সুযোগ হইয়াছিলো, এবং বর্ত্তমানে পরিদর্শক হিসাবে জেল বিভাগের সহিত সংশ্লিষ্ট আছি। সুতরাং আমার অভিজ্ঞতার কিছু মূল্য আছে বলিয়া আমি অন্ততঃ মনে করি।

মফঃস্বল জেলগুলিতে যে পায়খানা চলিত আছে সেগুলির অবস্থা অত্যন্ত শোচনীয়। ইহা অপরিচ্ছন্ন থাকে, একথা আমি বলি না। কিন্তু এমনভাবে ইহা প্রস্তুত যে কোন মনুষ্যনাম বাচ্য জীবের পক্ষে সেখানে লজ্জা বা সম্ভ্রম রক্ষা করা অসম্ভব। জেলের ভিতর যে মানুষগুলি থাকে তাহাদের যদি পশুপদ বাচ্য বলিয়া মনে করা যায়, তাহা হইলে বিশেষ কিছু বলিবার নাই। কিন্তু মানুষ বলিয়া বিবেচিত হইলে এবিষয়ে বিশেষ মনোযোগ দেওয়া আবশ্যক। আমি মনে করি, জেল বিভাগ কেবলমাত্র আসামীর শাস্তি দিবার জন্যই প্রস্তুত নহে, সংস্কারের দিক হইতে ইহার একটা সার্থকতা আছে। সুতরাং সেখানকার অধিবাসীগুলিকে একটু দয়া দেখান আবশ্যক। তারপর সকল জেলে সময়ে সময়ে মেথর কয়েদী না থাকায়, যাহারা কোনও দিনই পায়খানায় কাজ করে নাই এবং এই ঘৃণিত কার্য্য করিতে যথেষ্ট অনিচ্ছা বোধ করে, তাহাদিগকে দুএক টুকরা মৎস্য, কিছু গায়ে মাখিবার তেল এবং ভবিষ্যতে কিছুদিনের মাপের লোভ দেখাইয়া এই ঘৃণিত অপকর্ম্ম করিতে বাধ্য করা হয়। আমি বিশেষ করিয়া জানি যে কোন কোন কয়েদীকে শাস্তি হিসাবে পায়খানার কাজে নিযুক্ত করা হইয়া থাকে,—যদিও একথা কাগজেকলমে কিছু থাকে না। তাহারা স্বকৃত অপরাধের জন্য বিধিমূলক শাস্তি ভোগ করুক তাহাতে আপত্তি নাই, কিন্তু এরূপ ঘৃণিত কার্য্যে নিযুক্ত করা বিচার, শাসন এবং মনুষ্যত্বের অমার্জ্জনীয় অবমাননা। ইহার প্রতিকার অতি সহজ। আমি বারম্বার পরিদর্শনে যাইয়া লিখিয়াছি কিন্তু চিরাচরিত প্রথা অনুসারে সকল কথাই উপেক্ষিত হইয়া আসিয়াছে। বর্ত্তমানে Sanitary latrine নামক যে বৈজ্ঞানিক পায়খানার চলন হইয়াছে, যাহা বহু সেনানিবাস, পাটের কল ও কয়লার খণিতে প্রচলিত আছে ইহার প্রবর্ত্তন করিলেই সমস্ত সমস্যার মিমাংসা হয়, কিন্তু অর্থসচিব মহাশয় এদিকে দৃকপাত করেন নাই। অথচ বহু অনাবশ্যক বিষয়ে টাকার বরাদ্দ করিয়াছেন।

এখন আমি বলিবো—বাংলাদেশের জেলে যক্ষ্মারোগী হাসপাতালের কথা। বাহিরের সঙ্গে সঙ্গে কারাগৃহের মধ্যেও যক্ষ্মারোগের প্রাদুর্ভাব দিন দিন বাড়িয়া চলিয়াছে। এই রোগের সুতীব্র সংক্রামক দোষ থাকায় চিকিৎসার জন্য বিশেষ ব্যবস্থা করা কর্ত্তব্য। এবং নীতি হিসাবে যতদিন কয়েদীগুলি সরকার বাহাদুরের অতিথি থাকে তাহাদের জীবন সম্বন্ধে ততদিন সরকারের গুরু দায়িত্ব যে আছে একথা ধ্রুব সত্য। সুতরাং এবিষয়ে ত্রুটি হইলে তাহা যে অত্যন্ত দোষের একথা অস্বীকার করা যায় না। বাংলাদেশে আলিপুর ও প্রেসিডেন্সী জেল ব্যতীত মাত্র কুমিল্লা ও সিউড়ি জেলে যক্ষ্মা রোগীদের জন্য ২টী স্বতন্ত্র হাসপাতাল আছে। সিউড়ি জেলে আমি দেখিয়াছি,—সকল সময়ই হাসপাতালটি রোগীতে পূর্ণ হইয়া থাকে। তাহাদের অবস্থা খুব খারাপ হইলেও সহজে জেল হইতে মুক্তি দেওয়া হয় না। হাসপাতালে যে চিকিৎসার ব্যবস্থা আছে তাহা নিতান্ত প্রাচীন এবং মামুলি।

(Here the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Sir I think this year we are in a very advantageous and favourable position as far as the Jail Budget is concerned, because instead of having to reply to questions we had put questions to members of the legislature and to the public and we have received their answers which are being considered. What has surprised me is that though some of the speakers have criticised the jail administration and mentioned some subjects, curiously enough none of these subjects were raised in reply to the questionnaire that we issued, for example, the point about food and supply of bad vegetables has been mentioned as a real and genuine grievance but in reply to the questionnaire as far as I am aware, this has not been mentioned.

Then, Sir, there is another thing. I requested the honourable members to come here and listen to the policy of the jail administration which Mr. Hutchings and the Inspector-General of Prisons adumbrated to the members in this House on the 3rd of March but excepting Mr. Crossfield, I believe, none of those members who have spoken to-day took the trouble to be present then. If they had, I am sure they would have found that the criticisms which were made to-day would not have been necessary.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: We never got the invitation.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Your Chief Whip says that notice was given.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: He might have received one personally.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I am very grateful to Mr. Crossfield for the very considered and constructive criticisms which he has made about the Jail Budget. He has also told us what we are going to do, because he had the advantage of being present when the jail policy and programme were explained by Mr. Hutchings. The important thing is that we have had the questionnaire and the replies. The replies are being examined. What is more we have taken steps to get schemes ready to remedy most of the defects that exist at present but it has not been possible in the short time available to provide for the expenditure in the current year's budget. I hope that by the end of next year we will be able to adopt constructive proposals which would be evolved as a result of the deliberations on the replies to the questionnaire.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Have the schemes been published?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Not yet. Replies were received in August. They had to be gone into. Questions have to be examined and proposals have just come up. On some of these, orders have been passed and others are under investigation. They were not ready for this year's budget.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: When will they be ready?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I hope by the end of next year. Some of them we will be able to give effect to during the year if we find money by means of supplementary budget.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Including Jail reform.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I cannot go into details at the present time but I may tell the House that we have taken steps to have paid teachers for all the jails at district headquarters.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Teachers or preachers?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Teachers, and we are also having preachers for giving moral instruction and in this respect we are also trying to have women teachers. I would certainly consider the suggestion made by Mrs. Hemaprova Mazumdar about the clothings of women prisoners. Mr. M. R. Banerji has said about the administration of jails in other provinces and especially about the mortality.

As far as mortality is concerned, our figure is 10 per mille, whereas, I am sure, the death rate in Dacca Municipality is much higher than that—. (A member from the Congress group. What has Dacca Municipality to do with this?)—Mr. Bannerjee is a commissioner of the Dacca Municipality, and, so, responsible for the health of the people of Dacca.

Then, Sir, so far as the question of supplying mosquito-nets is concerned, from the medical point of view it is not advisable, as it obstructs ventilation. Besides, the expenses will be very heavy. But it is under our consideration as to whether sheets should be supplied so that they can wrap themselves up, and also whether some kind of anti-mosquito oil could be supplied for protection against mosquito bite.

Then, Sir, there is another thing, namely, the difference between the Congress Provinces and ourselves. The United Provinces had appointed a committee of enquiry, and the report of that committee was examined by a departmental committee. We do not as yet know whether any action has been taken on that report, whereas in our case we had a set of questionnaires some of which have already been given effect to and the others will be given effect to during the course of the year.

Then, there is another thing which I would like to put before the House. And that is, that we have got non-official visitors who have the opportunity of paying surprise visits and looking into the quality of food and all other complaints. I do not see why they should not take more interest and try their best to get redressed some of the local grievances which exist. There are the complaint books and suggestion books, and anything that is put down there will be given the most careful consideration—(A member from the Congress group. They are never responded to.) ——I submit, Sir, they are always looked into and responded to as far as possible. Therefore I hope the non-official visitors will take more interest in the matter and I am sure——

(At this stage the Hon'ble Minister having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

The motion of Mr. Manoranjan Banerjee that the demand of Rs. 33,73,000 for expenditure under the head "28—Jails and Convict Settlements" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost

The motion of Dr Sharat Chandra Mukherji that the demand of Rs. 33,73,000 for expenditure under the head "28—Jails and Convicts Settlements" be reduced by Rs. 100 (T. B. hospitals in Bengal Jails) was then put and lost.

The motion of Dr. Sharat Chandra Mukherji that the demand of Rs 33,73,000 for expenditure under the head "28—Jails and Convicts Settlements" be reduced by Rs 100 (condition of latrine system of District Jails) was then put and lost

The main motion of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin that a sum of Rs. 33,73,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "28-Jails and Convict Settlements" was then put and agreed to.

Business for 25th March, 1939.

Mr. SPEAKER: I might announce that by arrangement with the leaders and the Whips of the Opposition and other groups, the time-table fixed for tomorrow is that there will be only one or two questions from 10-30 to 10-40 a.m. Then the time from 10-40 to 11 a.m. will be devoted to "Anglo-Indian and European Education", from 11 to 11-30 a.m. to "Other Taxes and Duties", from 11-30 to 12 noon to "Interest on Debt and other Obligations", and from 12 noon to 12-45 p.m. to "Miscellaneous"; and the guillotine will fall at 1 p.m.

Adjournment.

The Assembly was then adjourned till 10-30 a.m. on Saturday, the 25th March, 1939, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Saturday, the 25th March, 1939, at 10-30 a.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. AZIZUL HAQUE, C.I.E.) in the Chair, 11 Hon'ble Ministers and 191 members.

SHORT-NOTICE STARRED QUESTION

(to which oral answer was given)

Stay-in Strike in Radha Kissen Cotton Mills No. 2 of Belur, Howrah.

***261A. Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Labour Department aware—

(*i*) that several hundred workers of Radha Kissen Cotton Mills No. 2 of Belur, Howrah, are on stay-in strike;

(*ii*) that a number of those strikers are on hunger-strike since Monday, the 13th instant;

(*iii*) that the stay-in strike and hunger-strike have began on the cut in wages amounting to 40 to 50 per cent.;

(*iv*) that the condition of certain of the hunger-strikers including Mahadeo, Baidhar, Abdul Wahed, Murali is causing anxiety;

(*v*) that two workers have offered *satyagraha* in front of the Mill gate and are lying there since 11 a.m., 17th March, 1939?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, what steps, if any, have the Government taken or do they intend to take to settle the dispute?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: (*a*)(*i*) No. I understand that 75 workmen are inside the factory and are not doing any work.

(*ii*) No. Some men went on hunger-strike for two days, but took food at night and are now taking food openly. One man stayed on hunger-strike for some time until he was removed to hospital.

(*iii*) No; but there was a wage-cut.

(*iv*) No; also see answer to (*ii*) above.

(*v*) No.

(b) Although the answer to (a) is not in the affirmative, the District Magistrate, Howrah, offered to bring about a settlement by fixing an equitable rate of wages to be determined after an enquiry by the Labour Commissioner into the rates obtaining in certain other cotton mills. The strikers rejected the offer and negotiations for a settlement fell through. I understand that the strikers who came out have passed a resolution condemning the Red Flag, and are approaching the District Magistrate to express their willingness to accept the terms he had previously offered to them.

Sir, I desire to add that since this answer was drafted and sent to the Assembly Department, the strike has terminated and all the strikers have left the mill, and we hope that after negotiations work will be resumed at an early date.

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is aware that the Labour Minister and his agents were condemned by the workers for trying to break the strike?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I don't think so, Sir. Mr. Sibnath Banerjee might have tried to do so, but I do not think that he succeeded in getting any proportion of the labourers to agree to it. (Laughter.)

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: On Wednesday last the Hon'ble Minister said that there were only 38 men inside the workshop and to-day in his reply he states that 75 men were in the workshop. May I enquire, Sir, which of these statements is correct, or is it that none of them are correct?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, the reason why I gave the number as 38 was due to a misunderstanding. Really the statement about 75 men being inside the workshop is correct. Most of the persons who were in the workshop were in communication with persons outside and they were really not on strike. They wanted to come out and were waiting for persons from outside to bring them out.

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is aware that when he made the statement that nobody was on hunger-strike, there were actually nine men on hunger-strike and the day before yesterday one of them, viz., Balaram, had to be sent to hospital where also he refused to take any liquid diet and he was forced under chloroform to take liquid diet?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I think, Sir, that the honourable member desires to hang his statements on their peg and not

to elicit information. He is, of course, at liberty to do so. But if he will look at the answer he will see that I have stated that only one man was removed to hospital, as he was on hunger-strike.

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: That man was Baikuntha Routh, but when the statement was made by the Hon'ble Minister Baikuntha Routh was not referred to at all, and it was stated by the Labour Minister——

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid that the form in which you are putting the question is not the correct form.

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what hand the Labour Minister had in getting a condemnation of the Red Flag in the workshop?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he had sent Shafatulla Khan to break the strike?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question also does not arise.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what was the percentage of the wage-cut? In answer (*a*)(*iii*) the Hon'ble Minister said "There was a wage-cut." May I enquire what was the percentage of the wage-cut?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: It varied from 25 to 30 per cent.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state who was the person who required chloroform for liquid diet to be given to him?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise. The Hon'ble Minister has not said that. You can ask Mr. Banerjee.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: But though the Hon'ble Minister did not say that, it has been alleged——

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order. I am afraid you cannot ask the Hon'ble Minister about what is alleged.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to enlighten us whether there was any allegation that a man was chloroformed in order to be given food?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: It does, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: No, it does not. You can't argue with the Chair.

Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware of any allegation about a man being chloroformed?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: It is Mr. Sibnath Banerjee who has supplied the information about a person being chloroformed—not I.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Is the Hon'ble Minister prepared to enquire whether a man was chloroformed?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Mr. Sibnath Banerjee has just informed us that a labourer was chloroformed in hospital.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: I submit, Sir, that my question has not been replied to.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Suhrawardy, Mr. Atul Krishna Ghose wants to know whether you are prepared to enquire into the matter.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: With regard to chloroforming?

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I see no reason why I should. Mr. Sibnath Banerjee seems to be very well posted with the facts.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: I beg to submit, Sir, that my question has not been answered.

Mr. SPEAKER: You asked whether the Hon'ble Minister is prepared to make an enquiry, and he says "No". So, your question has been answered.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: But the Hon'ble Minister refuses to make an enquiry?

Mr. SPEAKER: I am helpless. I can't force him to make an enquiry.

Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what arrangement, if any, was made for the food and bath of the 75 workmen who were inside the factory?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I understand, Sir, that the relatives and friends of these workmen who were inside the factory used to get food for them, and the men used to eat the food. As a matter of fact, I am informed that one particular workman ate 22 puris at one meal and got dysentery. (Laughter.)

Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether after this man got dysentery any arrangement was made for his medical treatment? (Laughter.)

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what he actually meant by saying that there was no stay-in strike and, at the same time, saying in answer (*a*)(*i*), that "75 men are inside the factory and are not doing any work". Is it not the same as a strike?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: No. I do not consider that the mere occupation of a factory, remaining inside it, and doing no work is in the nature of a strike. I refuse to give this illegal conduct on the part of the workmen the dignity that is associated with the name of strike, for which I have a certain degree of respect.

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when did the District Magistrate interfere after these hunger-strikers had gone on strike?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I believe the District Magistrate interfered on the third day—I beg your pardon, the District Magistrate went there the very first day. The strikers were inside the mill, and the management had turned off the lights and stopped the water-connection, and the District Magistrate went there and induced the management to put on the lights and give water to the men inside. Since then the District Magistrate has been trying to bring about a reasonable frame of mind on the part of the persons inside the mill but was unable to do so.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the date when the District Magistrate went there?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: On the very first day.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: I want to know the exact date.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Mr. Surendra Nath Biswas ought to know that two and two make four. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sometimes they make five?) (Laughter.)

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that the hunger-strike was resorted to because the workers were not allowed to get any food from outside and the mill authorities stopped any food being sent inside?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: If men did not get food or eat food because they could not get it from outside, that can hardly be called hunger-strike.

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: My question has not been understood by the Hon'ble Minister. My point was that the origin of the hunger-strike was the refusal of the mill authorities to allow any food to be brought inside for the stay-in strikers?

Mr. SPEAKER: But in your original question you have said that the strike began on the cut in wages amounting to 40 to 50 per cent.

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: That refers to the stay-in strike.

Mr. SPEAKER: Both stay-in strike and the hunger-strike. You now want to revise your own question.

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: No, Sir. All the details were not given in my original question.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, I am prepared to answer his question. My answer is دروغ گو را حافظه نه باشد.

Mr. SPEAKER: The implication of Mr. Suhrawardy's Persian sentence is unparliamentary. Will Mr. Suhrawardy please withdraw it?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Alright, I withdraw it.

Mr. ABUL HOSAIN AHMED: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that outsiders belonging to a particular political party instigated labourers to go on strike?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

37—Education—Anglo-Indian and European.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 11,46,800 be granted for expenditure under the head "37—Education—Anglo-Indian and European."

Mr. C. GRIFFITHS: Sir, in rising to speak on the motion before the House, I might remark in the words of Pascal—"It is impossible to be just if one is not generous." Therefore, it is as well that the Joint Select Committee inserted clause 83 in the Act to protect our educational grants and fixed a minimum which is Rs. 11,30,121.

On examining the two separate voted grants, from the year before Provincial Autonomy began, we find that our increase has only been four-fifths of a lakh, whereas the Indian schools have over 43 lakhs as the following figures will show:—

1936-37	..	Rs. 10·65 lakhs against Rs. 110·47
1937-38	..	Rs. 10·97 lakhs against Rs. 117·40
1938-39	..	Rs. 11·25 lakhs against Rs. 133·45
1939-40	..	Rs. 11·46 lakhs against Rs. 153·56

This is the first year we have been given a little over our minimum, but the total for the last 3 years shows a deficit.

If the proportion of 1936-37 were maintained, we should get 15·35 lakhs.

This treatment does not make for Bengal's progress as a whole; why should one section mark time while the others advance at the double. Are we changing front? This policy leads to retrogression and misunderstanding. We have no Alladin with his wonderful lamp to bring about such rapid changes without adversely affecting others.

Sir, we belong to Bengal and are deserving of every consideration regarding our educational grants. We are a literate but poor community, and earn our living by our educational qualifications only. Why must we be neglected while others are being built up. As a community we are taxed heavily. Surely we need every consideration to maintain our position and must object to arbitrary arrangements being made to displace us. Education both in primary and secondary schools should be given with a view to the life, needs and traditions of the people.

I am afraid it is due to this mal-adjustment that some Englishmen have become anxious about our lot, and so we find His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury, Sir John Anderson, our recent Governor,

and even His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester raising funds in London for our schools in India. So representative was the gathering at a luncheon held in London in connection with our schools' fund that the Archbishop remarked—"I wonder whether any appeal ever had behind it a general committee of greater weight and impressiveness." Anglo-Indians, therefore, need not be down-hearted. I take this opportunity of expressing my grateful thanks to these benefactors on behalf of my community. It is to be hoped that Englishmen in this House will realise the danger our grants are exposed to, if Ministers are supported, who when dealing with our claims ignore the weightage given to us by the best brains of both countries. It means we will be submerged into a depressed class, and this we must prevent at all costs. It is the duty of every honest Bengalee, whatever his religion be, to preserve at all costs that which is good and elevating. Our Western culture, our Christian religion, our English language and our British ancestry and traditions are widely appreciated and have contributed considerably to the growth of Bengal's success, and it is not fair now to deliberately handicap us.

Therefore let your motto be "Excelsior", and drop such anti-British propaganda, foster and build up European education. Encourage British people to settle in the country and to educate their children here. Give them every preference over those who do not. Send your children, as provision is made, to our schools and let us jointly march forward in the path of progress.

The Anglo-Indian and Domiciled Europeans have played and must play a very important part in building up the history of Bengal. It is our community that binds England to India, and India to England. Remember a chain is no stronger than its weakest link. Either country cannot do without the other. It will mean financial ruin for England and chaos and civil war for India. It is best that the matter of trade and defence be amicably settled for the mutual good of both countries. Our standard of living is high, but it puts money into circulation and gives work and food to tens of thousands. Consequently the average cost of education (of 12,000 students) in our schools is as high as Rs. 27 per month being as follows:—

	Rs.
School fees	11
Endowment funds	8
Government grants	8

Our schools are appreciated by Indians of all castes and creeds. We admit 25 per cent. and have almost the full complement, so Anglo-Indians really benefit only by half the grants, i.e., Rs. 5·73 lakhs.

Had Bengal worked in harmony with the British, believed in team work, spent more on European education and given us the extra 10

per cent. which equals Rs. 3·89 lakhs, it would do immense good to our schools. Fees could be reduced and relief brought to the poorer Anglo-Indians who cannot keep pace with the rich Europeans and Bengalees, and provision could also be made for such middle-class Indians as would care to enter our schools. Arrangements could be made for vocational training as well. This 10 per cent. would be more effective in 60 Anglo-Indian schools than in 60,000 Indian schools.

Then again, Sir, by providing professional training in medicine, law, engineering, commerce, etc., Anglo-Indians, Moslems and Hindus could by able leaders regain and control the resources of Bengal, which to-day is mainly in the hands of men from other provinces. By co-operation, we could soon have a prosperous Bengal for its people.

Remember how the Indian hockey team became world famous by Anglo-Indians, Muslims and Hindus all combining and working together. (Cries of "Hear! hear!")

It is destined that Britain's sons must share in India's progress. We must be considered, for mere numbers do not and should not count. Quality always before quantity. First the classes then the masses: otherwise disorder, confusion and revolution follow.

To destroy the Anglo-Indians and Domiciled Europeans is to destroy a very important section of Bengal itself. To keep alive the spirit of hatred, of communalism, is in turn to destroy Hindu and Muslim. If we wish to exist honourably, we cannot adopt a policy of wait and see. It is our birth-right to participate in the progress and welfare of the country as a whole. What a farce Provincial Autonomy appears without Anglo-Indians being placed in positions of authority? Beware of wolves in sheep's clothing who preach to destroy us; they are the real enemies of the country.

It is surprising with what ease the many can be controlled by the few, and so Goethe says—"Nothing is more offensive to reason than an appeal to the majority: it consists of a few powerful leaders. Of men who accommodate themselves, of weaklings, who assimilate themselves, of the mass who follow confusedly without in the least knowing what they would be at."

Against such odds, more force than reason, what chance has the Anglo-Indians, but to protest and keep on protesting. By a recognised standard we should have Rs. 15·35 lakhs. But it is gratifying to find that St. Xaxier's College was given Rs. 1½ lakhs as capital grant for which we are grateful and while thanking the Minister——

(Here the member having reached the time-limit, resumed his seat.)

Mr. L. T. MACUIRE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am indeed very pleased to find that the cuts tabled have not been moved. I speak on this motion for two reasons. The first is to acknowledge in this House our appreciation of the sympathy and encouragement of the Chief Minister

who is the Chairman of the Provincial Board of Anglo-Indian Education. The practical support of our Finance Minister who, considering the present state of finances, has given us the full quota allowed by statute and the generous and statesmanlike action of the Home Minister in the matter of the public services in our present difficulties is very encouraging and we appreciate it deeply. Education to my community is what the monsoon is to the masses. It is a *sine qua non* of our very existence as a useful community. Without it we will become not merely a drag on the state but I fear a positive danger to society. There is however a thorn in the bouquet. It is this. Anglo-Indian education like all education in the province—indeed in India—has been too literary and cultural. A large volume of public opinion now supports this view, and the Abbott-Wood Report encourages the view that vocational education which is not too specialized "aims at cultivating flexibility of mind and certain personal qualities which are as much moral as intellectual." To quote further, "the immediate purpose of education in relation to industry is to secure to industry the services of better qualified men, of young men qualified to play their part and to earn a reasonable living in the various grades of work into which business naturally divides itself."

Our leaders in the past thought that higher literary and University education would be a panacea for our ills, but to-day we find our graduates unemployed. It is technical and vocational training that will solve the difficulties of a very large section of our people. If it does nothing else it would evoke an alertness to the realities of life. It would bring about a change of attitude towards manual labour and eradicate in the middle classes of all communities in Bengal a snobbish dread of hard or grimy hands. In Europe and America and to a lesser extent in China and Japan vocational and technical education is in no way less honourable than classical. Education in this country—I do not speak only of Anglo-Indian education—should be better co-ordinated with the realities of life.

To a community like ours to whom lower official jobs are becoming fewer in a geometrical proportion to the applicants, the only solution is a form of education which will change the attitude of the rising generations towards employment in general education that will correct a false and artificial sense of values, education that will create a mentality that considers not the looks of the job but its utility; in a word education that will help the young idea to realise the dignity of labour and further enable young men of my community to earn a decent living in open competition with all comers; we have it in us. It only needs development. I am not the least bit pessimistic of the future of my community in this new India. Release the pressure and the cork will rise.

I have felt this for long, and it is quite four years ago that I approached the then Minister for Education—our present Speaker—with a scheme for technical and vocational training. It was not the concern of his department, and I was referred to the Minister in charge of Industries the Nawab Faroqui. He was all sympathy, but said the department over which he presided must examine the scheme. So there it went. Not a very industrious department I venture to say, for there it lay and there it still lies bound securely with red tape and covered with the dust of official neglect. This is not a complaint against the present Hon'ble Minister for I am sure he is not aware of its existence—indeed, I would not be surprised to find the present Director knows nothing about it. This is the fate of those who are patient.

What is this scheme? It is a scheme or system of education that is neither communal nor sectarian. It is a system worked out and perfected by the followers of Don Bosco. Men with an European reputation——

(Here the member having reached the time-limit, resumed his seat.)

Mr. W. C. WORDSWORTH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Mr. Maguire has admirably said many useful things. Five of us in this House are members of the Provincial Board for Anglo-Indian and European Education besides the Prime Minister as its Chairman and those for whom the Board works, the teachers, the managers, and the churches, are desirous that some one in this House should offer their grateful thanks to the Chief Minister for the work he has done for these schools and to the Finance Minister also for the provision he has made.

If we have one comment to make about the Finance Minister it is this: that though he has given us every penny to which we are statutorily entitled for this department, he has treated his budget as a long distance race in which a man can stop the moment he reaches the winning post; whereas we would like him to treat it as a hundred yards race in which a man after a mad rush finds it difficult to draw up until he is some way past the post. We can do with as much money as Government can spare for these schools. A year ago I suggested half-jestingly, but only half-jestingly, that if the Prime Minister could give these schools Rs. 5 lakhs as he then gave the Scheduled Castes 5 lakhs, the money would be gratefully accepted and wisely applied. I can assure him here that if he had given this department Rs. 5 lakhs, no part of the money would to-day be unspent, for the needs are established, schemes for spending money are ready, and there is in the department itself and in the schools every capacity for spending money wisely.

I will mention only a few of our needs. These schools are working under a code which is their contract with Government, but the budget,

though we have every penny allotted by the statute, does not enable the Inspector of Schools to pay out grants on the scale that Government has agreed. If he could do that, there would still be great leeway to be made up before these schools can be regarded as efficient. Then there are certain other specific needs long-felt, which no one can begin to act upon. One is the need of a free elementary school for the very poor children of the Anglo-Indian and European communities in Calcutta. These schools are very largely, by their nature and by their situation, charitable institutions and the amount of charity they do is considerable. The Government have no poor law department and they have to fill the gap, but there is no free school anywhere. May I suggest here that the Corporation of Calcutta, which is doing admirable work in Primary Education in this city, might consider whether it is not to its interest and part of its duty to establish one or more free schools for these poor children so that they can have some education? Then again something more is necessary in the way of educational provision for defective children, children of sub-normal intelligence, children whose minds are sick and injured. There is one small institution at Kurseong but that is badly supported, inadequately helped with grants and in itself it is not nearly enough. Every civilized country is expected to make considerable provision for the care of its defective children.

I would end on a note of gratitude to the Indian public generally, for their interest in these schools. Occasionally they pretend to be dissatisfied with them, but I join with Mr. Maguire in thanking our Indian colleagues for not pressing their cut motions. One suggested that all the teachers of these European schools ought to be Indians. I do not think he was serious in suggesting that, but the schools do serve the Indian community; they serve the Jewish community; they serve the Parsee community; they serve the Armenian community; indeed, they serve very many whose classification is difficult. I remember once being called upon to decide whether the children of a Chinaman who had married a negress from the West Coast of Africa were Europeans or Indians for the purpose of education. The European and Anglo-Indian Education Budget does very much more for the people of India of all kinds than the heading suggests, and I would assure our Indian friends that their kindness, their interest and their sympathy with these schools are widely appreciated.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Sir, I have not got the time nor do I think it necessary to reply in detail to all the points that have been raised by my friend Mr. Griffiths, as I feel that many of the points have been disposed of by the observations that have been made by my friends Mr. Maguire and Mr. Wordsworth. No one can for a moment doubt the importance of the great Anglo-Indian community as an integral part of progressive India, and I want to assure

them that their educational needs would be safeguarded. There is a Statutory Board which is very watchful over the interests not merely of Anglo-Indian but also of European education. Every month we have before us schemes for the improvement of the education needs of these two communities. Every question is carefully scrutinised and so far as Government are concerned, they are always ready to come forward and help by liberal grants from the public revenues all their educational institutions. Formerly this department was administered as a reserved department by a member of the Indian Civil Service and it is with the introduction of Provincial Autonomy that the supervision has passed into Indian hands. Let me remind my friends of the Anglo-Indian and of the European communities that Indians will not be slow to recognise the great importance of these communities in the matter of the political advancement of India as a whole and that no one in this House will grudge the legitimate provision for the expansion of Anglo-Indian and European education. With these words I commend my motion to this House and, in so doing, I can give the sincerest assurance to my friends that, as in the past so in the future, Government will be only too glad to put into effect schemes sanctioned by the Statutory Board which in their opinion are essential for the advancement of the education of Anglo-Indians and Europeans. Sir, I commend my motion for the acceptance of the House.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq that a sum of Rs. 11,46,800 be granted for expenditure under the head "37—Education—Anglo-Indian and European" was then put and agreed to.

13—Other Taxes and Duties.

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 99,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "13—Other Taxes and Duties."

Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 99,000 under the head "13—Other Taxes and Duties" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the Royal Calcutta Turf Club regarding possibilities of further taxation apart from betting tax and entertainment tax imposed on the said club.

I rise before this House with two-fold objects, firstly to show this Government a way to have more money in the provincial funds, secondly, to reduce the scope of gambling in this province. Sir, gambling is prohibited in Islam. Hinduism has never supported gambling and Christianity has never encouraged gambling. Sir, I had a similar motion last year in this House during the Budget Discussion,

but unfortunately for myself Government did not accept that motion and they did not think over the matter or what I suggested. Sir, I must give some allowance to the sentiments of Sir George Campbell who opposed my motion last year. I know, Sir, the European community of Bengal, particularly Calcutta, wants some little pastime and get some pleasure in gambling. But, Sir, what is pleasure to them is death to us, the poor people of Bengal. Sir, the Hon'ble the Home Minister is not here. I may mention in this connection that every tea-shop, every *biri* shop and, in fact, every small shop in Calcutta are small gambling dens. They realise from Friday evening, the whole night of Friday, till 1 p.m. on next Saturday from 2 annas to one rupee and collect a large amount and go to the Turf Club fully to lose that money.

Mr. SPEAKER: How do you know that?

Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY: The Hon'ble the Home Minister is supposed to know all that. The police is on the look-out for all these things. I will only emphasise that at least this Government, this Muslim League Government of Bengal, will follow the much condemned Government of Bombay. Apart from the betting tax, apart from the entertainment tax, apart from the income-tax and super-tax, the Government of Bombay have imposed a fresh tax on the Western India Turf Club and that is the license fee. Only last year they have realised Rs. 1,50,000 from the Western India Turf Club, and in Bengal this club, I mean the Calcutta Turf Club, is in volume, in magnitude, in money, and in everything far, far bigger than the Western India Turf Club of Bombay. I will suggest to the Hon'ble the Finance Minister to enquire what procedure the Government of Bombay adopted in realising the license fee from the Western India Turf Club and impose a heavy license fee on the Royal Calcutta Turf Club, so that the scope of gambling may be minimised. The result was that the Western India Turf Club at once closed the Second Enclosure, thereby preventing the poor people from coming to the Turf Club and losing money. There is only the First Enclosure now. The same thing can be done here by imposing a heavy tax on the Second Enclosure with the ultimate object of closing it down. Sir, I am far from suggesting the taking of this money from the Turf Club for the nation-building department, but I may suggest that at least a fraction of that money might be given to the "Star of India" so that the omission on the part of Government in making a contribution to that paper like the "Azad" might be rectified. I submit, Sir, Government are going to encourage gambling in another way by giving money to papers like "Azad", which has been alluring people to go to Behala to indulge in gambling. People who have gone to Behala to witness grey-hound racing will have realised that this Government instead of putting a

stop to gambling are bent upon spreading it. I am prepared to take any risk when I say that this Government are a party to the gambling resorted to by the National Sports Club. I say from my personal knowledge, Sir, that some of the Ministers are themselves involved in the corruption of gambling. (Cries of "shame! shame!" from the Congress Benches.) Some of the relations of the Ministers are involved in this gambling, and they are regularly drawing monthly stipends from the National Sports Clubs. The Hon'ble the Home Minister is not here. I challenge him to make a local enquiry and find out what corruption, what bribery is going on in the National Sports Club at Behala. May I ask a pertinent question, Sir, as to why Government are not imposing a tax on the Calcutta Turf Club? They have not got the backbone nor the courage to tax that club, and the special reason why they do not want to tax the Turf Club is that in that case they will have also to tax the National Sports Club which, as you know, Sir, is their own creation. They are directors, governors and stewards of that club. (DR. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: And also zemindars.) Yes, I know, some of the zemindars also are involved in it. Sir, I appeal to the Hon'ble Finance Minister to see if there is any scope to impose a tax on the Calcutta Turf Club, and if he has enough courage, let him bring forward a Calcutta Amusement Bill on the lines of the Bill of which I have already given notice. But I know, Sir, they are not going to bring such a Bill before this House this year. I ask the members of the Coalition Group to pause and consider what this Government are doing. They say, they are the custodians of the interest of the poor people of Bengal. Is it for the benefit of the poor people that they are encouraging gambling?

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit, resumed his seat.)

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 99,000 for expenditure under the head "13—Other Taxes and Duties" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the policy regarding supply of cheap electricity and the Electrical Adviser and his department.

Sir, in moving this cut motion standing in my name I would just like to draw your attention to one great demand that has been ventilated through representations from outside as well as in this House, viz., the demand for the supply of cheap electricity to the people of this province. As you are aware, Sir, for the time being the demand for the Electrical Adviser has been transferred to "Other Taxes and Duties," and that is my justification for bringing up this question at this stage. The supply of cheap electricity in Bengal has been in demand for more than one reason. We are all crying for cheap electricity for irrigation schemes, for cheap power for small industries

in rural areas, and a number of other beneficent projects that could be had if we could get electricity as cheap as some other provinces are getting. As you may be aware, Sir, the United Provinces, Bombay the Punjab, Madras and almost all the other provinces of India have been examining and pursuing with determined effort the policy of supplying cheap electricity through grids at suitable centres. They have already attained great success and have wthin a few years achieved wonderful results for their respective provinces. I would like to know what the Government of Bengal are doing in this respect. I feel that so long as the present policy of the Government with regard to electricity development continues, it will not be possible for Government to pursue any policy that could give us cheap electricity. I feel, for example, that there is an urgent demand for the amalgamation of the different departments concerned with electricity, viz., the Public Works Department Electrical Division under a Superintending Engineer should be combined with the office of the Electrical Adviser to Government who comes under the Hon'ble Minister of Commerce. The Public Works Department Electrical Division, as I have been able to discover, has been full of corruption, and that the men in charge are absolutely not worth the salt. I feel on the other hand that the Electrical Adviser has been doing very good work for some time, and he is making some invaluable investigations into the possibility of having big electricity systems in the province. I do not therefore find any reason why this gentleman should not be made responsible for the entire electricity policy of the Government. There is no reason why should he be allowed only to function as the policing officer, to see how far the electricity rules are being observed and not allowed to see that beneficent schemes may be initiated by Government. To-day, Sir, the Electrical Adviser has got merely to examine certain projects as have been presented to him and his department, and he has got to watch from time to time as to how the licensees are functioning. I think there should be something more than this done by this officer and his department. I know there has been a number of big schemes under examination for supplying cheap electricity. We can probably get an immense source of power from the Himalayas by harnessing some of the waterfalls in Sikkim. That scheme has been under examination for some time now by the English Electrical Company, but there is no reason why the Government of Bengal themselves cannot undertake a project like that and supply the whole of North and East Bengal with cheap electricity.

Now, Sir, coming to the question of Government taking up a scheme like that, I would remind the House and the Hon'ble Minister of his own promise to nationalise the entire electrical system of the province. In reply to a question of Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee last year, the Hon'ble Minister for Commerce assured the House that he in favour of nationalisation and that he was going to

examine the proposition with that end in view. As a first measure towards that end, I would urge that Government should not issue any fresh license to private parties and as opportunity arises Government should try to give the municipalities concerned the licenses for each area, and thereafter when the grid system is instituted at suitable centres to permit the municipalities to purchase cheap electricity in bulk from those centres, and to distribute the same at lower tension on the basis of the licenses that the municipalities will possess. But probably, I am crying in the wilderness. For, in Calcutta itself we found last year some steps taken by the Hon'ble Minister which make us extremely doubtful of his intentions. For the Calcutta Corporation there was an opportunity to terminate the contract of the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation, but what the reasons were which induced the Government to grant a further lease of life to the Electric Supply Corporation and not to avail themselves of that opportunity, we on this side of the House at least do not know. And for ten years more the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation has been granted a fresh lease of life. If this be the nature of the procedure going to be laid down in other cases, I do not think that the promise that the Hon'ble Minister in charge had held out to the House is ever going to be redeemed.

With these observations, Sir, I submit that the policy of Government in regard to electricity be revised, that the administration be changed and that the various departments concerned with electrical schemes and electricity distribution in Public Works Department buildings be controlled by one person, with one policy emanating from one Minister, if possible.

Maulvi MOSLEM ALI MOLLAH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not going to move the motions standing in my name under the head, "13—Other Taxes and Duties." I would only like to suggest a few new measures of taxation, by adoption of which, Government may easily improve their financial condition.

Firstly, I suggest the imposition of a tax on money in all shapes, sent outside the province. What I mean by "money" in all shapes sent outside the province is:—

(i) money remitted by foreigners. I mean the non-Bengalees, holding services in the province under different bodies to their native places or elsewhere outside the province;

(ii) money remitted by people engaged in various kinds of business in the province to their native places or elsewhere outside the province;

(iii) money sent out through banking agencies by commercial concerns, large or small, while transacting business with other provinces or countries, and so on.

Sir, a huge amount of money is thus drained out of the province through two channels, namely, the postal department and the banking corporations. And if a tax on a rupee basis, say two pies per rupee, is levied, it will no doubt bring a very big sum to Government without any harm being done to the people.

Secondly, I suggest the imposition of a tax on the Calcutta Turf Club in the following ways:—

(*i*) a tax of annas 8, Re. 1 and Rs. 2-8, respectively, should be imposed on tickets for entrance to the 3rd, 2nd, 1st and the Grand Enclosures;

(*ii*) the winner of every horse should be taxed to the amount of at least 5 per cent. of the total sum won;

(*iii*) the Calcutta Turf Club should be taxed to the amount of at least 5 per cent. on their net profit;

(*iv*) the commission of 12 per cent. on the total pool now realised by the club may be increased to 15 per cent., so that Government may get 2½ per cent. on the total pool without any loss being caused to the club.

Sir, the Calcutta Race Course is a place of entertainment for only those who can afford to part with their cash unhesitatingly, and therefore the taxation will in no way effect the poor people.

Lastly, I suggest that, buyers of jute, namely, the balers, the shippers and the mill-owners, should be taxed on the money value of the jute they purchase. Sir, there is an annual transaction of about 5 crores maunds of jute in the Calcutta market and if a tax even to the amount of 1 per cent. be imposed, the proceeds will no doubt be a very large one.

Sir, the jute dealers and manufacturers make huge profits every year, so much so, that a tax of 1 per cent. will be but a drop in the ocean and they will hardly feel it; on the other hand the poor cultivators may be greatly benefited by it; because they may be relieved of other taxes, namely, the education tax, etc.

It is understood that the Central Government pay a very insignificant portion of jute duty to the Bengal Government. Sir, 90 per cent. of jute grows in Bengal and it is only proper that a proportionate amount should be paid to the Bengal Government out of the jute duty. I, therefore, suggest by the way that the Central Government may be immediately moved in the matter.

I hope Government will appreciate my suggestions and work out proper schemes for adopting these new measures of taxation. In order to introduce them, it will be, I think, necessary to frame bills, and Government, I hope, will do it with all seriousness.

Government, I know, are striving for introducing in the province free compulsory primary education, but they are not finding adequate fund to do so. Sir, if these measures of taxation be adopted, then the problem of fund for the purpose will easily be solved, and the poor tenants may be saved from the burden of a new education tax.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will confine my remarks to the question of cheap electricity. I was glad to hear Dr. Sanyal's speech—not because of any illuminating fact which he placed before this House, for I have already been giving my serious consideration to the various matters about which he spoke, but because he has said something in this House which is of a constructive nature.

He says, Sir, that this province has not gone as far ahead as the other provinces. This is correct to a very large extent—partly due to the fact that the other provinces took up this problem much before the advent of the Reforms and partly because the other provinces have some natural advantages which this province does not possess. They have the terrain and the tracts and the gradient which make cheap electricity possible, whereas here we shall either have to tap the Himalayan Ranges and rivers most of which are outside British territory, or the coal-fields, and the question which we shall have to consider is whether, without any appreciable load nearby, it can be a paying proposition. Now, Sir, I do not say that it cannot be done, but these are matters which require considerable consideration. (Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: For how long?)

I am glad to find, Sir, that Dr. Sanyal appreciates the work of our Electrical Adviser who is probably one of the best officers that we have in Government service on this question. I put him on last year to tour the whole of India and to ascertain the merits and demerits, the technicalities and the financial position of the various electrical concerns that have been established by different Governments. He is compiling a report, and I have seen a portion of it. The report is an extremely valuable one, and I believe that it will be of the greatest assistance to Government in framing its future policy.

I agree with Dr. Sanyal that, so far as fresh licenses are concerned, they should, as far as possible, be confined to local bodies and public bodies, but I also feel that Dr. Sanyal, although he talks about cheap electricity, cannot rid himself of his political predilections, for he immediately goes off the deep end and begins to talk about the Calcutta Corporation and the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation. I may assure Dr. Sanyal, if he is really anxious to have cheap electricity, that what this Government has done by its refusal to the proposal of the Calcutta Corporation to dismember the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation was the only possible thing that we could do. If he just

directs his attention, divorced of political prejudices, to the consideration of this problem in its proper aspect, I do not think that he will, with his rather wide knowledge of electrical matters—which I appreciate—fail to see that Government was acting in the best interests of cheap electricity by not agreeing to dismembership.

Now, Sir, I wish to assure this House that the question of providing cheap electricity and developing our resources is engaging my anxious consideration, and I do hope that within a very short while I shall be able to place a scheme before the country.

Now, Dr. Sanyal has spoken about nationalization. Sir, it is not necessary for me to reiterate my policy. We first have to go in for public control, and I am considering a scheme by which we can better control the various electricity concerns which are scattered all over the province, most of which are being run inefficiently and very expensively. Thereafter will come nationalization, and this Government, Sir, the House may recall, accepted the policy of ultimate nationalization. (Cries of "Hear! hear!" from Coalition Benches.) One has to consider this: That there are these various concerns, and what are we going to do with them, and how are we going to acquire them. There are various matters to be considered. If Dr. Sanyal had read the electrical reports, particularly those that have been produced in England, he will understand what are the various steps that can be taken. We can go in either for outright purchase or make provision for sinking funds and so on. All these matters are such as require expert advice. I propose seeking expert advice in order to carry out my policy. I am sure the House will agree with me that I have taken adequate steps, and am proceeding with that caution which such an important and expensive subject deserves.

The Hon'ble Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKER: Sir, there is an impression in this House to which Mr. Hashemy referred, namely, that in Bombay, the tax is realized at a much higher rate than in Bengal; but I have looked into papers and I find that so far as the totalisator tax and the tax on bookmakers are concerned, they are fixed at 4 per cent. in Bengal, but in Bombay, both the taxes are variable but the maximum limit is fixed at 4 per cent. in the case of the totalisator tax and at 5 per cent. in the case of the bookmaker's tax. But my information is that the rates actually charged are the same both in Bengal and Bombay. But their total receipts under the taxes are higher, because, I think, their turnover is higher than that of the Calcutta Turf Club. They besides get a larger amount by way of license fee. Then Mr. Hashemy has also said that like Bombay, we may also charge a special license fee and he has asked us to examine this question. So far as this is concerned, we shall certainly consider if there is any further scope for taxation on licensing. So far as I have been able to examine the accounts of the club, I do not think there is much scope

for further taxation on that club on the position of their financial position, but still we shall examine the accounts further to see if there is any scope for further taxation.

The motion of Mr. Syed Jalaluddin Hashemy that the demand of Rs. 99,000 under the head "13—Other Taxes and Duties" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal that that demand of Rs. 99,000 under the head "13—Other Taxes and Duties" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The original motion of the Hon'ble Sir Bijoy Prasad Singh Roy that a sum of Rs. 99,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "13—Other Taxes and Duties" was then put and agreed to.

22—Interest on Debt and Other Obligations.

The Hon'ble Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKER: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 5,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "22—Interest on Debt and Other Obligations."

Mr. DHIRENDRA NARAYAN MUKERJI: I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 5,000 under the head "22—Interest on Debt and Other Obligations," be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about Government's proposal to raise a loan of rupees one crore and about the loan policy of the Government.

While moving the cut motions I am under a feeling of disappointment, having my illusions shattered in spite of the great hopes we held in the ability of the Hon'ble Finance Minister who had, be it said to his credit, exhibited to us successful finance in the business world, and from whom, despite party alliances, we expected relief to the country in general. When the Hon'ble Finance Minister had put before us the budget for the year 1937, I had experienced this same feeling of disappointment, but the feeling was then much less, as I reasoned with myself that the failure in making out a successful budget was due to the legacy of his predecessor in office. In the budget of the year 1938 even after the windfall of excess jute duty, I argued that a better budget could not emerge as the Hon''ble Finance Minister had not as yet been able to set his house in order.

But when time after time, and for the third time, this sort of unsatisfactory budget has been put before us, we cannot but feel sorry for it, in spite of it being presented to us by a person whose practical knowledge of finance I highly estimate. We find that out of the total revenue of 13 crores of rupees the principal sources of the total revenues

are jute duty, land revenue, excise, and stamp. They contribute no less than 9½ crores. An analysis of these will bring us to the fact that these are realised more or less from direct or indirect taxation from the mass of common people. This means that the mass contributes 78 per cent. of the resources of the State.

We also find from this budget that the State is returning little over 5 crores to the masses by spending the amount in nation-building work such as education, public health, sanitation, etc. It appears to me that for every rupee paid by the poor man, he gets back annas 8-6 and loses annas 7-6 in the process of getting it back. Certainly it is not a very happy state of affairs for him. Not that I expect or any one expects that the poor man would get back 16 or 18 annas in the rupee but that the benefit would be real.

Charges for the loan proposed to be taken will be met from the revenue which means that the already overburdened poor will have to shoulder the additional burden of 70 per cent. of this charge, while the rich of the country will subscribe to the loan and have the benefit of investing their spare money and thereby gaining interest.

The Hon'ble Finance Minister has tried to justify the raising of this loan on the ground that he has advanced 60 lakhs to the agriculturists and local bodies at a higher rate of interest, though he has not taken the House into confidence about the rate of interest going to be earned and the provision he has made for possible bad debts which are inevitable in cases of agricultural loan.

Another justification of his scheme, which he has put forward, is the spending of 20 lakhs in public buildings and thereby saving the rent. He has not also taken us into confidence to inform how much rent he will be saving by such venture and whether that will counterbalance the interest and sinking fund charges, etc.

State buildings have no doubt a prominent place in the budget of every country, but no undue prominence should be given to them, especially when we find that our masses are so poor that they hardly get a single proper meal a day, when people are dying in flocks from malaria, and other preventible diseases and when the country is going dry not due to prohibition, but for want of supply of fresh drinking water.

I would not have had the least hesitation in supporting wholeheartedly a programme where an attempt was made to relieve agricultural distress, where the problem of better transport arrangements were made to take rural produce to the market, where financial help could be made available at the time of sowing and they could be relieved of the crushing burden of indebtedness not to speak of irrigation and public health facility. Have these things been done? Not to my knowledge. That is the reason, Sir, why I cannot support the

wisdom that prompted loan programme. It means palliatives here and there in the shape of *takavi* loan of a few rupees and does not go to the root of the matter. To my mind it appears that the Finance Minister has been guided more by consideration of immediate balancing of the debt and credit sides of his budget estimates than by any bold and well-conceived plan of national reconstruction.

Our Finance Minister has drawn the gloomy picture of this country in his Budget speech every line of which we endorse, but then the situation calls for a bold policy. Unfortunately for us all the Government does not come out with a loan policy to finance the scheme of far-reaching reconstruction of national economics. In that case the House would have been glad to accord their support to it. We are faced with make-shifts where money will be spent with a pretence of helping the people but to my mind, and to other minds also in this Chamber, it is going to be spent injudiciously and lavishly. I need not dwell on them as they have already been discussed threadbare by my predecessors.

Sir, I fail to understand why the Hon'ble Finance Minister has advocated half-measures which are no measures at all. No doubt in the company of his colleagues, he has not his full freedom, and I appreciate the fact that truly his position is far from enviable. All the same I would ask him to be bold for once, just and sincere, and thorough in his programme, and if I am permitted, I would remind him of his responsibility of quoting his own words. I would say: "He must always have an eye to the future and study the possible repercussion of his commitments."

Sir, it is of course sound finance from the narrow point of view of the exchequer to take advantage of easy money in the market. But the narrow point of view of the exchequer should not be the point of view of a Finance Minister who aims at national reconstruction. The crying need of the province to-day is industrialisation and after long years of inactivity just when the inhabitants of Bengal are awakening to that need and when an easy money market was providing them with the finance required, one crore of rupees is being directed from the market to the coffers of the Government. Repercussion of such a policy will tell heavily on the development of the smaller industries of the country.

Sir, he has made an appeal for united action and my reply to him is in his own language; it is for him to realise the gravity of the situation and to come forward with a real constructive policy for the country.

I am not afraid of responsibilities. If taxation is inevitable, let there be fresh taxation as in other provincial Governments, but such impositions must be levied on those who can bear the burden—luxury

taxes and the like. Let us tap these resources and spend the money for the real reconstruction of the country. Let us mean business.

I know that, situated as we are to-day, we cannot listen to reason and that the least said soonest mended. But is there no way out? No relief in retrenchment? The Hon'ble Finance Minister said there is none; further retrenchment cannot afford effective relief. Sir, time is short; I cannot go into details, but I can only mention one old, much repeated retrenchment scheme—generosity like charity begins at home—we find no less than 16 lakhs of rupees is going to be spent on account of 250 members, representatives of the people—as they style themselves, sitting in this Chamber. I am sure, the Hon'ble Ministers will show the way by foregoing their emoluments and working on Rs. 500 a month; the sacrifice—it is not much because they are all honourable men—will add to their dignity. Let the members reduce their monthly allowances and give up their daily allowances and be content with Rs. 50 a month and let them take recourse to third class travelling as in other provinces, and I am sure thereby we shall be able to make a saving of Rs. 10 lakhs a year. This amount when capitalised will stand for at least double the amount the Hon'ble Finance Minister seeks to raise by loan. With these words I move that the demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

The Hon'ble Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKER: I have nothing to say in reply except that my friend's admirable speech would fit in quite well with the general discussion. He has practically said nothing about the item under consideration except that the rate at which agricultural loans are being granted has not been disclosed. I say we do that at 6 per cent.

The motion of Mr. Dhirendra Narayan Mukherji that the demand of Rs. 5,000 for expenditure under the head "22—Interest on Debt and Other Obligations" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The original motion that a sum of Rs. 5,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "22—Interest on Debt and Other Obligations" was then put and agreed to.

43—Industries—Cinchona.

The Hon'ble Mr. PRASANNA DEB RAIKUT: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 4,54,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "43—Industries—Cinchona."

The motion was then put and agreed to.

57—Miscellaneous.

The Hon'ble Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKER: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 1,03,99,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "57—Miscellaneous."

Srijut MANINDRA BHUSAN SINHA: Sir, I on behalf of Mr. Nikunja Behari Maiti beg to move that the demand for a sum of Rs. 1,03,99,000 for expenditure under the head "57—Miscellaneous" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discusion on the desirability of amending the Bengal Local Self-Government Act of 1885 and Village Self-Government Act of 1919 in the following respects:—

(1) Provision for adult franchise.

(2) Abolition of nomination.

(3) Doing away with the approval by Government of the election of Chairmen in case of Local and District Boards.

(4) Control over employees.

(5) Checking delay in publication of the names of nominated and elected members.

(6) Detailed rules for guidance of the scrutiny of nomination papers of the candidates and matters leading to election.

(7) Holding elections just on the termination of the scheduled term of life of these Boards.

(Mr. Nikunja Behari Maiti entered the chamber at this stage and spoke in Bengali.)

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI:

সভাপতি মহাশয়, আমার নামে যে প্রস্তাব রয়েছে সে প্রস্তাব আমি সমর্থন করি। এই প্রস্তাব সমর্থন করার সঙ্গে আমি কয়েকটী কথা উদ্বাপন কোরছি। প্রথমে আমি আমার প্রস্তাবের abolition of nomination বা মনোনয়ন প্রথার উচ্ছেদ সম্বন্ধে দু একটা কথা বলবো। মনোনয়ন প্রথা, আমাদের এই ভারতবর্ষের অন্যান্য অনেক প্রদেশ থেকে উঠে গিয়াছে। তারা নিয়ম কোরেছে লোকাল বোর্ড বা ডিষ্ট্রিক্ট বোর্ডে কোন ব্যক্তি nomination পারে না। সমস্ত seatই elective seat এ পরিগণিত হয়েছে। যেমন বোম্বাই। ১৯০৮ সালের বোম্বে ১নং আইন বলে যে—Every District and Taluk Local Boards shall consist of elective members মান্দ্রাজে ও সেই অবস্থা। কিন্তু দুর্ভাগ্যবশতঃ আমাদের বাংলাদেশে এখনো পর্য্যন্ত আইনের এই পরিবর্ত্তনের কোন সম্ভাবনা দেখা যাচ্ছে না। এমন কি দ্বৈত শাসন কালে মান্দ্রাজে ১৯২০ সালে যে আইন হয়েছিলো সে আইনে—আজ থেকে ১৫ বছর আগে যে আইন করা হয়েছিলো—সেই আইনে one-fourth nominated member করা হয়েছিলো। কিন্তু এখন এত বছর পরে ১৯৩৯ সালে দেখতে পাই যে আমাদের বাংলাদেশে one-third nominated member না হলে চোলবে না। এই মনোনয়ন প্রথা যে কতদূর খারাপ সে বিষয়ে বেশী বলা বাহুল্য মাত্র। কয়েক মাস পূর্ব্বে ভূতপূর্ব্ব মন্ত্রী মিঃ নৌসের আলি যে বিল এনেছিলেন, সেটা Select Committeeতে দেওয়া হোয়েছিলো—সেই কমিটির ১৮ জন মেম্বরের মধ্যে ১১ জনই বোলেছেন যে মনোনয়ন প্রথা উঠিয়ে দেওয়া হোক। তাঁরা যে ভাষায়

বোলেছেন সেই ভাবাতেই জানাচ্ছি। এই ১১ জনের মধ্যে কংগ্রেস পার্টির মেম্বর ছিলেন এবং Coalition Party র যাঁরা ধুরন্ধর তারাও ছিলেন। তাঁরা বোলেছেন We are decidedly of opinion that the present Bill should have provided for the abolition of the system of appointment of members of the District and Local Boards. Proposals have been made for amendment in certain respects of the sections of the Act dealing with the constitution of the District and Local Boards, viz., sections 7, 9 and 10. These proposals should have proceeded further, and should have provided also for the abolition of the system of appointment. The system of appointment is an anachronism for which there is no justification now. In the Legislative Assemblies the system of appointment has been abolished, and in many local self-governing bodies, the proportion of appointment has been reduced, and it is high time that the system should come to an end in the District and Local Boards. We would ask the Government to take immediate and appropriate measures for the abolition of the system of appointment under the Bengal Local Self-Government Act. একজন জেলা বোর্ডের ভূতপূর্ব্ব চেয়ারম্যান—এই সভার সভ্য—শ্রীযুক্ত কিশোরীপতি রায়—তিনি মেদিনীপুর জেলা বোর্ডের চেয়ারম্যান ছিলেন—তিনি আমাকে লিখেছেন যে the principle of nomination causes depravity in the candidates seeking for nomination. তারপরে ভোটাধিকার সম্বন্ধে আমার বক্তব্য এই যে প্রাপ্ত বয়স্ক মাত্রেরই ভোটাধিকার হওয়া উচিত। United Provinceতে সম্প্রতি যে আইন হচ্ছে তাতে এইটে রয়েছে যে প্রাপ্ত বয়স্ক মাত্রেই ভোটাধিকার Local Board, Union Board এবং জেলা বোর্ড সকল জায়গায়ই পাবে। আমাদের বাংলাদেশে ১৯২১ সাল থেকে এই Local Self-Government বিষয়টা হস্তান্তরিত হোয়েছে বটে, কিন্তু দুর্ভাগ্যবশতঃ Local Board, ইউনিয়ন বোর্ড ও জেলা বোর্ডের মেম্বরদের নির্ব্বাচনে ভোটাধিকার যাতে বেশী হয় তার জন্য কিছু মাত্র চেষ্টা করা হয় নাই। বহুকাল পূর্ব্বে, ১৮৮৫ সালে ৫৩ বছর আগে—ভোটাধিকার যেরূপ ছিলো এখনো প্রায় তাই রয়েছে। এখনো যে সমস্ত জায়গায় ইউনিয়ন বোর্ড হয় নাই সে সমস্ত জায়গায় যদি লোক্যাল বোর্ডের ভোটার হতে হয় তাহলে তাকে একটাকা চৌকীদারী ট্যাক্স দিতে হবে, কিংবা এক টাকা রোড সেস দিতে হবে, অথবা তার ২৪০ টাকা আয় হওয়া দরকার। তাছাড়া গ্রাজুয়েট, উকীল বা মোক্তার হলেও ভোট দিতে পারে। অ্যাসেমব্লিতে যারা ছয় আনা চৌকীদারী ট্যাক্স দেয়, কিংবা যারা আট আনা সেস দেয় অথবা যাদের ম্যাট্রিকুলেশন পাশ, তাদের ভোটাধিকার আছে কিন্তু Local Board আর জেলা বোর্ডে ভোটার হতে হলে এক টাকা cess দিতে হবে, বা এক টাকা চৌকীদারী ট্যাক্স দিতে, অথবা গ্রাজুয়েট, বা উকীল মোক্তার হতে হবে—এই যে একটা অসামঞ্জস্য এটা দূর হওয়া উচিত। মান্দ্রাজের আইন কি? সেখানকার আইন বলছে:—Every person whose name is included in that part of the electoral roll for any territorial constituency of Madras Legislative Assembly which relates to the area of the Local Board or any portion thereof shall be entitled to be included in the electoral roll for the Local Board. তার পর মেয়েদের ভোটার হওয়ার কথা। যখন বোম্বাই ও মান্দ্রাজে মেয়েদের ভোটাধিকার দেওয়া হয়েছে এবং মেয়েরা মেম্বর হতে পারে তখন বাংলা দেশ কেন যে এ বিষয়ে পিছনে পোড়ে থাকবে তা আমরা বুঝতে পারি না। এই অ্যাসেমব্লিতে ৫ জন মহিলা সভ্য রয়েছেন। তাঁরা যোগ্যতার সহিতই কাজ করেন। কিন্তু আইন অনুসারে তাঁরা জেলা বা লোক্যাল বোর্ডের কিংবা ইউনিয়ন বোর্ডের মেম্বার হতে পারেন না। এমন কি তাঁরা ভোট দেওয়ারও অধিকারী নন। Local

Self-Government Act এর section 9 ও section 13 থেকে এবং Village Self-Government Actএর section 7 থেকে "male" কথাটী তুলে দিতে হবে। অন্যান্য প্রদেশে তাই হয়েছে। এখানে যদিও কংগ্রেস গভর্ণমেণ্ট প্রতিষ্ঠিত নয়, তবুও জনসাধারণের ভোটের জোরে যাঁরা এখানে আজ গভর্ণমেণ্ট তৈয়ার কোরেছেন এবং যাঁরা সব সময় popular Government বলে প্রচার করেন তাঁদের এ বিষয়গুলির প্রতি দৃষ্টি দেওয়া উচিত এবং ভোটাধিকার যাতে সকলেই পায় সে বিষয়ে ব্যবস্থা করা কর্তব্য। মিঃ মণ্টেগু ও চেমস্‌ফোর্ড যে রিপোর্ট দিয়েছিলেন তাতে তাঁরা এই কথাই বলেছেন যে ভোটাধিকারের প্রসার করতে হবে। তাঁরা বলেছিলেন যে responsible institutions will not be stably rooted until they become broad-based. কিন্তু তাঁরা এই কাজের ভার দিয়ে রেখেছিলেন দায়িত্বশীল মন্ত্রীদের উপর। মন্ত্রীরা এই কাজ এখনও করেন নি। ইংল্যাণ্ড, ফ্রান্স, আমেরিকার যুক্তরাষ্ট্র প্রভৃতি দেশে যদি ভোটাধিকারের বিস্তারের দ্বারা উপকার হয়ে থাকে তাহা হইলে বাংলা দেশে ভোটাধিকার বাড়িয়ে দিলে যে ভালো হবে সে বিষয় কোন দ্বিমত থাকতে পারে না। অবশ্য যাতে কোরে minority communityর member আসে তারও ব্যবস্থা আইনের দ্বারা করা উচিত।

আর একটা কথা আমি উত্থাপন কোরছি, সেটা হচ্ছে জেলা বোর্ডের চেয়ারম্যান মঞ্জুর করা Local Governmentএর উপর নির্ভর করে, এটা খুব খারাপ বোলে আমি মনে করি। এবং এর ফল কি হয়েছে? যে সমস্ত চেয়ারম্যান জেলা বোর্ডে খুব ভালো কাজ করেন তাঁরাও যদি কোন কারণে স্থানীয় গভর্ণমেণ্টের বিরাগভাজন হন তাহলে তাঁদের চেয়ারম্যান থাকা কখনো সম্ভব নয়। চেয়ারম্যান হতে হলেই তাঁদের কালেক্টর সাহেবকে খোষামোদ কোরতে হয়, কমিশনার সাহেবের কাছে যেতে হয়, কিম্বা Local Self-Governmentএর মন্ত্রী মহাশয়কে তোষামোদ কোরতে হয়। মেদিনীপুরে এ বিষয়ের একটা দৃষ্টান্ত আছে। স্বর্গীয় বীরেন্দ্র নাথ শাসমল মহাশয় যখন মেদিনীপুরের জেলা বোর্ডের চেয়ারম্যান ছিলেন, তখন তিনি যে কাজ কোরেছিলেন বাংলা দেশের কোন চেয়ারম্যান সে রকম কোরেছেন কিনা সন্দেহ। তথাপি তিনি গভর্ণমেণ্টের অপ্রিয় ছিলেন বোলে তাঁকে সরিয়ে দেওয়া হয়। কিন্তু মেদিনীপুর জেলা বোর্ডে তিনি যে কাজ কোরেছিলেন তা মেদিনীপুর জেলাবাসীর হৃদয়ে গাঁথা রয়েছে। বোম্বেতে গভর্ণমেণ্টের এ রকম চেয়ারম্যান nomination করার power নাই, অন্য কোন প্রদেশেই এ রকম power নাই। আর একটা কথা হচ্ছে এই যে জেলা বোর্ডের কর্ম্মচারী নিয়োগ ও dismiss করার ব্যাপারে কমিশনার সাহেবের অনুমতি নিতে হবে। এ নিয়মটী থাকার জন্য জেলা বোর্ডের কর্ম্মচারীদের অনেক সময় উপযুক্ত মত শাসন করা চলে না। এ রকম ব্যবস্থা self-governing প্রতিষ্ঠানের পক্ষে বড়ই অসুবিধাজনক। এর ফল কি হয়েছে! ফল হয়েছে এই যে জেলা বোর্ডের কোন একজন কর্ম্মচারী যে নাকি ৫০ টাকা বা তার বেশী মাইনে পায় সে যতই কিছু খারাপ কাজ করুক না তারে সরানো খুব কঠিন হোয়ে পড়ে। আমাদের মেদিনীপুরের জেলা বোর্ডে এই রকম একটী কর্ম্মচারী তাঁকে যখন কংগ্রেসী বোর্ড সরাতে চাইলেন তখন স্থানীয় গভর্ণমেণ্ট তাঁকে রেখে দিলেন, আবার যখন ম্যাজেষ্ট্রেটী বোর্ড সরাতে চাইলেন তখনও গভর্ণমেণ্ট তাতে বাধা দিলেন। কর্ম্মচারীদের বাহাল বরখাস্ত ব্যাপারে স্বায়ত্তশাসন প্রতিষ্ঠানের পূর্ণ কর্তৃত্ব থাকা দরকার।

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit, resumed his seat.)

Mr. SHAHEDALI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,03,99,000 under the head "57—Miscellaneous" be reduced by Mr. 100 to raise a discussion about donation and contribution by the Bengal Government.

Like all other heads of expenditure, want of policy is also very vivid here. Last year the Government spent Rs. 2,70,000 for allowances to terrorists and other State prisoners, but this year Government have not to spend anything on that account. Last year the Government spent Rs. 98,000 for Special Commissions of Enquiry, but this year Government have raised the amount to Rs. 2,46,000. The increment of Rs. 1,48,000 for Special Commissions of Enquiry will act as tonic in the Coalition Group. I can but congratulate the Hon'ble Finance Minister for this provision.

Now, Sir, as regards the details of the provision under "Donations for Charitable Purposes", the money allotted for this is Rs. 32,500 less than the amount they allotted in the previous year. The amount spent last year was Rs. 1,27,000, while the Government has provided only Rs. 94,500 this year. I do not know why the Government has taken this step. The consistent policy of the Government is to act for the zemindar and the capitalist and to work against the interest of the tenants and the labour. This I shall show by facts and figures. Last year the grant to the Calcutta Muslim Orphanage was Rs. 25,000, to the Society for the Protection of Children in India was Rs. 10,000 and to the Society for the Prevention of Blindness Rs. 10,000, but what is the fate of these institutions this year? Sir, they have been given nothing. Because the public want more money for these institutions, the Government has taken up the attitude of non-compliance. The Government has been very liberal for payment of donations to the European and Anglo-Indian guided institutions, e.g., donations have been made to (1) the Governors to the St. Thomas School, (2) the Calcutta Blind School, (3) the Calcutta Protestant Home, and (4) the Salvation Army Rescue Home. But so far as Indian institutions are concerned, the Hon'ble the Finance Minister has not taken much interest.

Now, Sir, I am asking the members of this House from the Chittagong Division do they not feel that they have been neglected everywhere by this Cabinet? There were donations, big and small, cognisable and non-cognisable, visible or invisible; but have they got any for their Division? The members of the Tippera district are fighting for a scheme, at least for a fund for the Gumti embankment, but the Government paid no heed to their demand. Then, Sir, there was only one Muslim Orphan organisation at Chittagong; year before last it got Rs. 980, last year Rs. 440, but this year it has got no donation, not a single *cowrie* has been provided for this institution this year.

Now, Sir, in the Red Book supplied by the Hon'ble the Finance Minister regarding the Explanatory Memorandum on the Budget of the Government of Bengal there is a list of donations and contributions. If the members of the Chittagong Division would kindly refer

to that book, they will find that there is no donation for their Division. I ask them, how long will they sleep with mustard oil in their nostrils? This is the time for them to rise and press for their legitimate grievances. Now, just consider the aspect of contributions by the Bengal Government. The Hon'ble Finance Minister has contributed more money for Labour Welfare Organisation this year than he spent last year. Why has this big amount of Rs. 20,000 been given to this organisation of the Hon'ble Mr. Suhrawardy? Sir, it is for no other purpose than to kill the labour organisation which wants to promote the condition of labourers. A careful scrutiny will convince the public that the policy of the Government is to keep down the movement of the tenants and the labour and to help the capitalists in their exploitation of the Province.

With these few words, Sir, I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,03,99,000 for expenditure under the head "57—Miscellaneous" be reduced by Rs. 20,000 to raise a discussion about the grant to the Labour Welfare Organisation.

Sir, this grant is meant for the Labour Welfare Organisation which it would be more proper to term as the Labour Ill-fare Organisation or still more appropriately Strike Breaking Organisation. We have heard a lot of condemnation about the subsidy of Rs. 30,000 to the paper "Azad", but sufficient attention has not been drawn to this item of Rs. 20,000 except for the fact that my friend, Mr. Shahed Ali, has just now referred to it. I am glad to find that it has not at least escaped the attention of the members of this House.

Sir, before I enter into this subject I would like to make one submission with regard to receipts of District Boards. Under the Government of India Act, the income of District Boards has been brought under the Provincial Fund; the contribution of Rs. 3,83,000 should, therefore, have been included under "Miscellaneous" and not under "Police". I would request the Hon'ble the Finance Minister to present a Finance Bill to the effect showing the respective receipts against the particular District Boards concerned.

Now I come back to my own subject. I feel disappointed, Sir, because the Labour Minister is not to be seen in the House, although he knows full well that this cut motion is now under discussion Sir, the other day he made a statement that formerly when I used to address meetings thousands used to gather to hear me, but now there are barely a hundred. I do not want to compare myself with the Hon'ble the Labour Minister as it is beneath my dignity to do so. But what is the position the Labour Minister has attained? Sir, when he wants to address a meeting, he has to hire lorries and has to obtain lorry-load

of people from Cossipore, Tikiapara and other places, as he had had to do only the other day for the meeting convened at Champdani. I have not yet come to that position. And by this Labour Minister challenges have been thrown out to us many times in this House!! He has always been sarcastic in his remarks on the labour representative in this House, but does he dare to come out and contest any of the five labour seats with us? Is he prepared to accept the challenge that was thrown before and I am throwing out to him now? If not, it would be proper for him not to be sarcastic towards us as has been his habit of late, knowing full well that he has a substantial majority in this House and he can say anything with impunity. I am now glad to find the Labour Minister in our midst. His statements can simply be described as outrageous perversion of truth, and nothing short of that. As you are aware, Sir, he to-day denied that there was a stay-in strike in the Belur Cotton factory, but in his next sentence he said that 75 persons were not working and were remaining in the factory. That is his conception of truth. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the very day the Labour Minister stated that I could barely get a hundred people as my audience, that very evening several thousands gathered at Belur to hear me, and the irony of it is that at the instigation of the Labour Minister section 144 was promulgated preventing that meeting. Sir, the Labour Minister has managed to get hold of this money meant for labour welfare only to be utilised in his fight against the real representatives of labour, and the worst of it is that he has been utilising the grant made last year, as also in his intention to do the same with the help of the grant proposed for next year, in purely communal propaganda. The subsidy of Rs. 30,000 for "Azad" will be utilised openly for Muslim League propaganda work, but this sum of Rs. 20,000, which has been given ostensibly for labour welfare work, will be utilised for preventing all labour welfare work, by means of open communal propaganda.

Sir, the Government of India Act lays down that the Labour seats should not be on a communal basis but the Labour Minister is disregarding the India Act. For every genuine labour organisation we find that there is a parallel communal organisation started by men appointed directly, or indirectly, by him, either through the Labour Welfare Organisation or Youth Welfare Organisation or by the utilization of some fund or other which is under his control.

Sir, there is a Press Workers' Union of about 15 years' standing, whose recognition has been cancelled and in its stead a communal union has been recognized with about a few hundred members only on its rolls. This union is not acceptable to the majority of the press workers and false reports and statements are sent to the Registrar of Trade Unions and printed as authentic reports. That is the position, Sir. The same is the case with regard to the Electrical Workers' Union which became a very influential union, but another organisation

named Bijli Mozdoor Union was started by the Labour Minister on a communal basis. He interferes not only with big organisations such as the Jute-mill Workers' Unions, but he goes down so low as to interfere with such a small union as the *Chhata Karkhana Union*.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: What union?

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: Umbrella Workers' Union. However, I shall now refer to other matters in brief as the time at my disposal is so very short.

Sir, the very day the Hon'ble the Labour Minister said that I could not get more than a few hundreds of labourers to listen to me, on that very evening as I have said before, several thousands gathered at Belur to listen to me and several hundred were on stay-in strike. There, too, he and his men like Safatullah Khan tried to break up the strike—he by having section 144 promulgated, and his men by goondaism and hooliganism. There his men went and tried to dissuade the labourers to join the union for 10 or 20 times, but they were disappointed, and nobody paid any heed to them. That is the way, Sir, how attempts are made to break genuine labour organisations in this Province. There were, Sir, about 200 workers on stay-in strike in Belur Cotton Mill, 70 of whom were Muhammadans. Attempts were made by Safatullah Khan and other associates of the Hon'ble the Labour Minister to drive a wedge between the Hindu and the Muslim workers. Among the Muslim workers there was one Abdul Waheb, who was on hunger-strike, and another on stay-in strike, viz., Ashgar, aged about 60, and the Hon'ble Mr. Suhrawardy tried his level best to bring them out, but in spite of his attempts he did no succeed, and 5 Bengali Muslims were with the other workers up to the last. In spite of the propaganda of Safatullah and the Muslim Leaguers sent by the Hon'ble Minister, he could not succeed in breaking the organisation altogether. None the less, his attempts were untiring. He has been trying to break up labour organisations. At Rajganj what do we find? There the workers wanted to resist the Jute Ordinance. The strikers wanted that because there was a break-down in the machinery, and it was during the Ramzan fast, extra should be worked after Ramjan was over. Both the Muhammadan and the Hindu workers jointly started resistance, and the result was that the Labour Minister and his associates had to go there to create division and win them over on false promises and the strike thus came to an end and hundred were victimized. This fact was reported to the Hon'ble the Chief Minister and nothing came out of it and there was no redress. It seems that he is as helpless as we are in such matters. The Labour Minister seems to be the supreme head of the Government—superior to the Chief Minister.

We find the same story repeated at Tittaghar. The workers there resisted the Jute Ordinance and there was a strike on account of the

dismissal of some six workers. The strikers had started propaganda against the jute mill authorities for reducing the wages by nearly Rs. 2-8 a month for every worker. The members of the union started propaganda against this, and for that those six workers were dismissed, with the result that by way of protest against that some 60,000—differently estimated at 40,000—workers came out. There also the same thing happened, and it is on official record that negotiations were started not with the Muslim workers there but with the associates or agents of the Hon'ble Mr. Suhrawardy who went to the locality, negotiated, and there was a communal riot. I do not know how it came about, but I have a suspicion—I won't be surprised when the real truth comes out—that the Labour Minister had a hand in it.

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit, resumed his seat.)

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not want to move the motion that stands in my name, but I would like to say a few words about the necessity of establishing telegraph lines between the mainland and the islands of Sandwip, Hatiya and Ramgati.

These islands, Sir, are part and parcel of the Noakhali district, and the headquarters station of Noakhali is about 35 to 40 miles away from these islands, and at present the communication between these islands and the mainland of Noakhali is extremely bad. There is practically no steamer communication between these islands and the mainland. Of late, a steamer communication has been established which has been subsidized by the District Board, but this communication too is not at all satisfactory. The mails come to the islands *via* Chittagong on R. S. N. and I. G. R. S. N. steamers. There is no telegraphic communication between these islands and the mainland. These islands, Sir, are very important in many respects. The population of these islands is over 2 lakhs, and the income of Government from the landed properties in these islands is about Rs. 8 lakhs a year. A large number of people of these islands are employed in many countries of the world as sailors—in Europe, America, Japan, etc. Money-orders received in the post offices in these islands—every month—amount to Rs. 25,000, and during the Great War the money-orders amounted to Rs. 50,000 a month. Therefore, Sir, it is essential that these islands should be connected with the mainland by telegraphic communications.

Sir, we the people of these islands, represented the matter to the Telegraph Department on more than one occasion for the establishment of telegraphic communications, but the department did not listen to our prayer. Their usual reply was that the Telegraph Department did not derive sufficient income from these islands to justify the maintenance of a telegraph office there.

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit, resumed his seat.)

Srijut MANINDRA BHUSAN SINHA:

আমি এ session এ মুখ খুলেনি। ইংরেজিতে একটি কথা আছে speech is silver, silence is gold এটি খুব খাঁটি কথা। যাই হোক, cut motionটি নিয়ে আমি যা বলছিলুম সেই প্রসঙ্গে আরো কিছু বলা দরকার। আমি খুব সংক্ষেপেই আমার বক্তব্য শেষ করবো। বাংলা দেশে District Board, Local Board প্রভৃতি যাবতীয় প্রতিষ্ঠানে মেম্বর nominate করার যে প্রথা আছে তা অচিরেই তুলে দেওয়া কর্তব্য। এর কি কুফল সেই সম্বন্ধে একটি ব্যাপারের উল্লেখ করবো। বাঁকুড়া সদর Circle Officer বাঁকুড়া সদর Local Board এর একজন nominated মেম্বর। সেখানকার অন্যান্য nominated মেম্বর এবং কতিপয় elected মেম্বরদের হাত করে তিনি একটি দল ইংরেজিতে যাকে caucus বলে তাই গঠণ করেন। এই সংবাদটি পেয়ে আমি স্বয়ং Sadar S. D. O. এবং District Magistrateকে জানাই কিন্তু তাঁদের কাছ থেকে প্রতীকার পাওয়া গেল না। গত বৎসর ২৪শে কি ২৫শে ফেব্রুয়ারি তারিখে ঐ Circle Officer ঐ সব মেম্বরদের নিমন্ত্রিত করে নিজের বাসায় নিয়ে যান। সেখানে তামা তুলসী হাতে কোরে তাঁদের শপথ করান হয় যে যখন সদর Local Board থেকে District Board এ delegate নির্ব্বাচণ হবে তখন তাঁদের vote caucus candidate দের পক্ষে দিতে হবে এবং ঐ Circle Officer নিজে একজন candidate দাঁড়ান এবং তাঁদের ভোটে District Board এ নির্ব্বাচিত হয়েছেন। Circle Officer এর এই যে দলকর্ম্ম, অনাচার ও অত্যাচার District Magistrate এর গোচরীভূত করা সত্ত্বেও প্রতীকার পাওয়া গেল না। সভাগৃহ থেকে কেউ কেউ জিজ্ঞাসা করচেন যে এই District Magistrate টি কে? তিনি এখন মাননীয় অর্থসচিব মহাশয়ের জেলার Magistrate আছেন—মাননীয় অর্থসচিব মহাশয় যেন একটু সতর্ক থাকেন। আশ্চর্য্যের বিষয় এই ধরণের I. C. S. কর্ম্মচারী এখন (৩) রয়েছে। আমার মনে হয় ঐ caucus ব্যাপারে District Magistrate এর হাত ছিল, পরে বলচি।

বিচার পাবো এই আশায় আমার অভিযোগটি Local Self-Government বিভাগের মন্ত্রীর কাছে নিবেদন করা হল। আমাদের দুর্ভাগ্য ঐ বিভাগের দায়িত্ব আজ এক মন্ত্রীর উপর, দুদিন পরে আবার এক মন্ত্রীর উপর। দ্বিতীয় মন্ত্রী গিয়ে তৃতীয় মন্ত্রী বদল হলেন। ফলে নিবেদনের পরিণাম কি হতে পারে বুঝতেই পারচেন। বর্ত্তমান Labour Minister কিছু-দিনের জন্য Local Self-Government এর দায়িত্ব হাতে নেন। তখন তিনি আমার সঙ্গে ব্যাপারটি আলোচনা করতে চান। আলোচনাও হয়। সে প্রসঙ্গে তিনি আমাকে জানান যে District Magistrate এবং Divisional Commissioner তাঁদের report এ আমার অভিযোগটি ভিত্তিহীন বলেচেন, এক্ষেত্রে তিনি কিছু করতে পারেন না। উত্তরে বিস্ময় প্রকাশ করে তাঁকে বলি যে তিনি যে এত নিরুপায় তা জানা ছিল না। আরো বলি, আমি চাই নিরপেক্ষ খোলাখুলি তদন্ত; সেই তদন্তে আমি প্রমান দিব। তাসত্ত্বেও আমার অভিযোগ যদি মিথ্যা প্রমানিত হয় তাহলে তিনি যা ব্যবস্থা করবেন আমি সেই ব্যবস্থা নিতে প্রস্তুত থাকবো। আমার open enquiry র demand না District Magistrate না Local Self-Government এর মাননীয় মন্ত্রী রাখতে পারেন নি। কেন তাঁরা open enquiry কে ভয় খাচ্চেন? Office enquiry হলেই Circle Officer সহ স্থানীয় কর্ম্মচারীদের অনাচারের নগ্নমূর্ত্তি প্রকাশ পেতো। Local bodied এ popular election এর freedom এবং purity যদি এই সময় এই ভাবে ছুন্ন হতে পারে তবে——

(The member, having reached the time-limit, resumed his seat.)

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: Sir, every year, it is becoming a tradition for this House, on the day of the discussion of labour welfare grant, to hear the empty fulminations of the Hon'ble

Labour Minister, always ready and eager to proclaim that the influence of the Labour representatives of this House is going down in the labour areas. It is worthy of note that if there is any point on which the Hon'ble Labour Minister has shown anxiety, it is his anxiety—almost his indecent haste—to undermine the influence of the Labour representatives of this House which he has failed to do, rather than to effect the slightest welfare of the lakhs and lakhs of labourers in and around Calcutta. We know to-day that over two years have elapsed and the Hon'ble Labour Minister has got no welfare work to his credit except the basest kind of activities to break labour's unity, to break labour's solidarity and to divide labour into warring communal camps. We know, Sir, that it was very boastfully proclaimed on the floor of this House that there have been no communal riots in Bengal. If there have been no communal riots of a tremendous magnitude, it is not due to any credit of this Government, but in spite of them, in spite of the machinations of the Hon'ble Labour Minister and his colleagues who want to divide Bengal communally and to set one community against another. In spite of their efforts to foment communal trouble, the people of Bengal did not want to fight against one another. The distressed people of Bengal—Hindus and Muslims—do not like to fight against one another but fight against the machinations of the Hon'ble Labour Minister and his colleagues to divide Bengal communally. It is from that point of view that we find that the Labour Department has been acting, not as department for the welfare of labour, not as a department for the advancement of labour interest in this Province, but, as the international crisis is drawing near and as the people of the country are struggling against Imperialism on the eve of the imposition of Federation, we find the Labour Department is acting as the veritable agent for carrying out the machinations of the British War Office for imposing Federation on India. There is no question of Hindus or Muslims in this matter; there is no communal division in this matter. The Federal scheme of the Government of India Act has been universally condemned. The British Imperialism can rely on one thing and that is the division of India between the autocratic Princely regime and the people's Democracy and the division of India into communal camps fighting against one another. The Hon'ble Labour Minister is acting for British Imperialism.

The Labour Department of the Hon'ble Mr. Suhrawardy is not making for the advancement of labour or national interest by one iota. His policy is to work as the direct agent of British Imperialism which is against both Hindus and Muslims. We know to-day that time has come for India, for Hindus and Muslims, to regain and rehabilitate their heritage and not to rest content with the mock Muslim rule of 11 Ministers, acting at the behest of British Imperialism, but to reconquer Bengal for Muslims and Hindus. It is precisely from this point of view that the activities and the role of the Hon'ble Labour Minister have been the most pernicious. His role has been that of a

modern Mirjafar who is being backed up by the British bayonets. The situation that has been created by the policy of this Ministry has been to work up this Province communally and as a result of their nefarious activities the Province is now a simmering cauldron of communal passion. If bloody riots have not taken place, it is the good sense of the people which has averted them.

I represent the constituency of Barrackpore and it has been our misfortune to witness a few murders and breaking of heads which could have been avoided by timely action. It was in 1938 or towards the latter part of 1937 that the Hon'ble Labour Minister received a petition from the workers of Tittagarh asking for holidays on certain days of their religious festival. That petition has remained without any response up till now. On the occasion of the Durga Puja festival, the Hindu workers asked for holidays which was opposed by some of the agents of the Hon'ble Minister with a view to stir up communal resentment amongst the workers; but the workers all over the jute area stretching over 70 miles were united in their demand and ultimately enforced the grant of their holidays. When the Ramjan festival came, the Muslim workers wanted some concession in their working hours but this was refused. May I ask the Hon'ble Minister, since he received the representation of the workers on holidays, whether he has taken any action to see that holidays were enforced in the mill areas. I am sorry to say that although holidays for the workers is certainly an item of welfare for labour, the Hon'ble Minister has not only been heedless but criminally negligent on this point. His agents have tried to utilise the Durga Puja and Muhurram and Ramjan festivals to stir up communal riots but they failed. 40,000 workers came out of the mills, on strike, as one man, for the reinstatement of six men dismissed in the Standard Jute Mills. As big war orders were coming and the mills would have to work day and night in order to manufacture the war sand bags, the Hon'ble Labour Minister and his British Masters—the Imperialist and Capitalist Masters—provoked the strike in order to break the backbone of the general strike so that the mills may run without any interruption. With this end in view, they deliberately fomented a communal trouble. I passed day and night at Tittagarh during those dreadful days of communal frenzy. Of course, riot did not take place, but if the riot had broken out and the 40,000 workers had come out fighting, the streets would have been strewn with dead bodies in a narrow and small place like Tittagarh, but the workers refused to fight. One day after midnight I received a message from the Deputy Inspector-General of Bengal to the effect that a Peace Conference would be held on the following day. I went to the Peace Conference at Tittagarh but I did not find there any genuine representative of the local people. I found myself confronted with the notorious communal agents of the Hon'ble Labour Minister, e.g., Safatullah Khan, Molla Muhammad Jan, and other lorry-loads of hooligans imported from outside. Within three hours after the Peace Conference, daggers

were drawn, blood was spilt and dead bodies dropped on the streets. That is the policy of the Hon'ble Labour Minister.

Soon after the General Election, I witnessed another incident. In my constituency, Kankinarrah, the route that was being used from time immemorial by the Muslims for carrying *korbani* meat on the *Bakr-id* day was suddenly stopped. There was no alternative road and therefore the men carrying on *korbani* meat would have to pass by the side of the kitchens of some of the Hindu workers. This usual road was being used for this purpose for the last 20 years and there had never been any trouble. When that road was opened on my intervention some Hindu communalists were stirred up, by the agents of the Hon'ble the Labour Minister, who went about saying that a man returned from London being the son of a Hindu is eating beef; so Hinduism is in danger. Communal frenzy was roused, but that difficulty on the intervention of the Hindu workers with whom good sense prevailed was avoided. Within a fortnight of the incident one day the workers came to me running and said that in front of the *Bara Masjid* of Kankinara a pig's head was placed. It was not unknown to the workers who did that. These mischief-makers were known to the workers, and so they failed to bring about a communal riot at Kankinara. That the riot did not take place is no credit to the Labour Minister. His nefarious activities were known and shot off the mark. When the Hon'ble Mr. Suhrawardy went to Kankinarra to receive one of his communal receptions, stage-managed as they are from Calcutta, he had to run for his life with his hat in hand and tie and collar badly adrift, because both Hindu and Muslim workers combined to hound him down. For a demonstration of protest against the mock reception of Mr. Suhrawardy a meeting was organised on the following week both by Moslem and Hindu workers. The Hon'ble Mr. Suhrawardy's presence serves as a provocation to the workers. On another occasion, within three days of the visit of Mr. Suhrawardy in the mill areas the great general strike of 1937 took place. I appeal to the members of this House that if to-day we are seriously thinking of labour welfare let us at least agree that on the question of labour welfare there is no question of Hindu or Moslem. If we want better wages for the workers it is better wages both for the Hindus and Moslems. There can be no preference of Muslim interests to Hindu interests. If the wages of the Hindus are cut down those of the Muhammadans cannot remain where they are. No capitalist, be he a Hindu or a Muslim or a Christian, will allow that. If we want labour welfare seriously, let there be a serious effort for it in that direction and let those serious obstacles that stand in the way, namely, the disgraceful policy of the Labour Minister, be eliminated and wiped off by the combined effort of the Hindu and Moslem workers of the Province. I appeal to all concerned unequivocally to express their views to-day.

(At this stage the member, having reached his time-limit, resumed his seat.)

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Mr. Sibnath Banerji spoke from a lacerated heart and Mr. Niharendu Dutta Mazumdar spoke from a disseased imagination. Both of them are wondering how and why they are not so successful now in duping and deceiving the workers as they were before the elections and they are floundering about in order to find the reasons. If they only look at themselves and consider that a time must come when the labourers will refuse to be deceived by them they will find adequate reasons.

I am being held responsible for almost every word that seems to be uttered in the labour areas. I am afraid I am neither so omniscient nor omnipotent.

Now I will take up Mr. Sibnath Banerjee first. I was not present here when he started speaking, but I believe that in my absence he said that he would like me to contest his and Mr. Niharendu Dutta Mazumdar's seats and he will show that they possess more influence than I do. Unfortunately I will not be in a position to contest his seat, because I have resigned from all trade unions. Not being a labourer myself and not being an honorary member of any trade union I am not qualified to contest a seat, but I believe that any number of persons, any number of other people will be found who will be able to contest the seats of Mr. Niharendu Dutta Mazumdar and Mr. Sibnath Banerjee and both these gentlemen will have to look to their laurels very seriously and to make still more extravagant promises in those areas in the next election if they want to retain their seats.

(Interruptions from labour members.)

Mr. SPEAKER: I hope you will kindly remember that when there were speeches on your side I did not allow any interruption. So I hope you will not also interrupt the Hon'ble Minister when he is replying; otherwise it will be very difficult for him to reply.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: It is not possible for me in the short space of time at my disposal to be able to reply to all the various statements that have been made. I will take up only one or two more important items, particular the statement of Mr. Sibnath Banerji, that section 144 was promulgated against him in Belur at my instance. I wish to declare once and for all that the Labour Department has nothing whatsoever to do with any such order. It was promulgated by the local officers who did so at their discretion. If the Labour Department was consulted and Mr. Sibnath Banerjee's case was placed before it, I think it would have suggested that Mr. Sibnath Banerjee did not deserve the promulgation of section 144 against him, because I do not believe Mr. Sibnath Banerji's present position is sufficiently important to necessitate the promulgation of such an order.

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJI: I want him to substantiate his remarks.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid, Mr. Banerjee, you are again interrupting. In reply one has to swallow bitter things.

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJI: But there is a limit.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Now Mr. Banerjee and Mr. Dutta Mazumdar have found out the reasons why all the spade-work which they put in for several years, and all the communist and revolutionary propaganda which they have been inculcating and all the red flags that they have been violently waving have disappeared now and why their influence has waned. As regards the allegation that communal propaganda is being conducted by me I would like to state here—

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJI: It is no allegation; it is a fact.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid it is not for me to decide which side is liable. There is a rule of debate, namely, that the debate is to be replied by one gentleman. It is quite possible that there are facts which might be challenged by the opposition, but I ask you whether you can find out in any country in the world any system by which every second sentence is interrupted.

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJI: We do not find such a Labour Minister in any part of the world.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: No such opposition either.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: So far as communal propaganda is concerned, I would like if I may be permitted, to state the actual facts, viz., that for the present communal propaganda which is being carried on my friends opposite are mainly responsible. Let me give an instance. There is a union here which is known as the Calcutta Dockers Union composed of stevedore labourers, it is gaining strength from day to day for practically all the stevedore labourers in their thousands have become members of this Union. For the last several days we have been receiving petitions from Ooriya Sardars of a stevedore seeking police protection, because the red flag party is threatening them with violence because they have joined what they call a communal union. They say: "Why do you go and join the Muhammadans? You Hindus must work separately and the Muhammadans must work separately. If you go and join Muslim labourers you shall be

assaulted". These are the petitions which we have been receiving and there is not the least doubt about it. That is due to the communal propaganda which is being carried on by Mr. Sibnath Banerjee and Mr. Dutta Mazumdar's party—I will not say by themselves because I think they must keep themselves aloof, but by the people whom they purport to lead.

Mr. Dutta Mazumdar talked about Titaghur in a flamboyat manner and said that it was due to his personal efforts, his personal intervention that there was no rioting in Titaghur. Was it due to his personal intervention that 35 Muslim shops were looted in Titaghur by the Hindus? The reason why rioting did not take place there was because we tried our level best to see that whatever might be the provocation that would be offered by the Hindus, the Muslims must keep cool and must keep the peace, and that was what they did. They saw before their very eyes—Mr. Mazumdar should mark this 34 shops of Muslims being looted one after another and there was not a single case of assault on Hindus by Muhammadans. This is what is being done, and I ask the House to judge as to which is the party that is creating communal divisions amongst labourers and is carrying on communal propaganda.

Now, Sir, Mr. Mazumdar has stated that I ran away for my life. Let me tell Mr. Mazumdar that I have never run away for my life from anybody—not even from the hooligans that follow Mr. Mazumdar. I am quite prepared to take my stand against anybody for the matter of that because I am not afraid of a very petty thing called life. My friends Mr. Mazumdar and Mr. Banerjee may set a great value on life. I set much greater value on my principles and I hope that the day will never come when Mr. Mazumdar or anybody of his type will be able to say that this person ever ran away for his life from any group.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Yes, so long as the Peshwari is there.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Mr. Mazumdar talked about Titaghur. Mr. Sibnath Banerjee said that the strike in Titaghur was not due to the fact that six men were dismissed but was a protest against the Ordinance. Mr. Mazumdar said that the strike in Titaghur was due to the fact that six men were dismissed. Both these gentlemen ought to know that they went about—with 52 people in about seven cars—trying to stir up the labourers agianst the Jute Ordinance. Both these gentlemen might recall, and many others of their party might recall, that they tried to hold rally after rally and issued strike notice after strike notice. They advertised mammoth rallies, and held pigmy rallies but to no effect; they could not in spite of their best efforts, induce the labourers to come out on strike against the Ordinance. There was no question of communal propaganda. They tried their

level best to create trouble and signally failed. Since then both of them have begun to realise that the labourers now refuse to be duped.

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: 60,000 people came out on strike.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: They did not come out on account of the Jute Ordinance. Now I wish to say something with regard to the Labour Welfare grant although my friends of the Opposition hardly deserve any explanation. The Labour Welfare grant is being issued to a body which has nothing to do either with Hindus or Muslims and the money is being spent entirely by them. Schools have been founded and in these schools both Hindu and Muslim children of the labourers study. The teachers are both Hindus and Muslims and it is absolutely incorrect and mischievous to state that a single pie of the Labour Welfare grant is spent on any other purpose than that of the welfare for the labourers.

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: I know.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: It is no use your saying that you know. You know nothing about it. Not one of you has ever attempted to know and to go and inspect a single school. I do not expect—and this House does not expect—either of the two members and their colleagues ever to understand what Labour Welfare means. They have not the slightest knowledge of it. For them the Labour movement means fighting with employers, shouting revolutionary slogans, waving red flags, bringing about strikes and making poor labourers go and borrow money in order to feed themselves, and thereafter by means of certain subscriptions keep their organisation going. That is what they understand by "Labour Welfare". I do not expect them to support this Labour Welfare grant and I expect the House to agree with me that one of the greatest recommendations for this Labour Welfare grant is the speeches that have been made by the two honourable members opposite.

The Hon'ble Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKER: Sir, if you want to get juice out of a date-palm tree you must strike it and pass your knife through it. In that sense I am grateful to Mr. Niharendu Dutta Mazumdar that he has elicited such a striking speech from my friend Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy. Sir, I do not want to give a detailed reply to the demands made by various members because it will not fit in with the turn which the debate on Labour Welfare organisation has taken. But, Sir, I cannot treat questions concerning ladies slightingly, because my friend Mr. Nikunja Behari Maiti has raised the question of franchise to women in the District Boards. I can say in reply that Government will give due consideration to his proposal. So far

as the abolition of nomination is concerned, the question is under the consideration of Government and their decision will be known in proper time. So far as this demand for doing away with the approval of the Government in the matter of the selection of Chairman in the case of Local and District Boards is concerned, I am afraid Government will not accept that suggestion.

Then, Mr. Shahedali accused us that we had omitted Rs. 2,70,000 as expenditure on account of the State prisoners and detenus, which we had provided last year, but, Sir, how to spend that money when there are no State prisoners and no detenus this year?

Mr. SHAHEDALI: You did not follow my speech carefully.

The Hon'ble Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKER: Last year we provided, he said, Rs. 25,000 for the Muslim Orphanage and this year we have not done so. The Muslim Orphanage wanted that money last year for buildings, and this year they have not demanded it.

Mr. SHAHEDALI: Not for buildings.

The Hon'ble Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKER: Then, Sir, he has said that we have not included the Gumti embankment under "donations for charitable purposes" but I think, Sir, if there is to be any provision for the Gumti embankment it ought to come under the Irrigation Budget.

Mr. SHAHEDALI: On a point of order, Sir. I did not state that money for the Gumti embankment should come out of donations for charitable purposes. I simply said that money was not allotted for that scheme.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am sorry to say, Mr. Shahedali, that your point is wholly out of order.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: The Hon'ble Minister is misrepresenting the facts.

The Hon'ble Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKER: In the matter of misrepresentation of facts I do not claim that I can compete with my friends opposite, particularly with Mr. Datta. With reference to Mr. Syed Abdul Majid's request that there should be some arrangements for telegraph offices at Sandwip, Hatia and Rangamati in this year's Budget, we have provided for a telegraph office at Sandwip.

The motion of Manindra Bhusan Sinha that the demand of of Rs. 1,03,99,000 for expenditure under the head "57—Miscellaneous" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Shahedali that the demand of Rs. 1,03,99,000 for expenditure under the head "57—Miscellaneous" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Manindra Bhusan Sinha that the demand of Rs. 1,03,99,000 for expenditure under the head "57—Miscellaneous" be reduced by Rs. 20,000 was then put and lost.

The main motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Nalini Ranjan Sarker that a sum of Rs. 1,03,99,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "57—Miscellaneous" was then put and agreed to.

55—Superannuation Allowances and Pensions; 55A—Commutations of Pensions financed from Ordinary Revenues, and 83—Commuted value of Pensions not charged to Revenue.

The Hon'ble Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKER: Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 81,10,000 be granted for expenditure under the heads "55—Superannuation Allowances and Pensions", "55A—Commutations of Pensions financed from Ordinary Revenues" and "83—Payment of commuted value of Pensions not charged to Revenue."

The motion was then put and agreed to

56—Stationery and Printing and Depreciation Reserve Fund—Government Presses.

The Hon'ble Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKER: Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 23,28,900 be granted for expenditure under the head "56—Stationery and Printing and Depreciation Reserve Fund—Government Presses".

The motion was then put and agreed to.

30—Ports and Pilotage.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 3,63,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "30—Ports and Pilotage".

The demand is a usual demand. There is only this addition that we have provided for three scholarships for the "Dufferin", two of them are reserved for Moslems and Anglo-Indians.

The motion was then put and agreed to.

36—Scientific Departments.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Sir, on the recommendations of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 30,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "36—Scientific Departments."

The motion was then put and agreed to.

47—Miscellaneous Departments.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 4,22,500 be granted for expenditure under the head "47—Miscellaneous Departments"

Sir, I regret that in this Department there is a paucity of Moslem and Scheduled Castes officers, and therefore on this occasion I have offered the post of an Inspector of Factories to a Scheduled Castes candidate.

The motion was then put and agreed to.

12—Charges on account of Motor Vehicles Taxation Acts.

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 4,50,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "12—Charges on account of Motor Vehicles Taxation Acts."

The motion was then put and agreed to.

Deposits and Advances—Interest free advances.

The Hon'ble Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKER: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 4,25,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "Interest free advances".

The motion was then put and agreed to.

Loans and advances bearing interest.

The Hon'ble Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKER: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 18,42,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "Loans and Advances bearing interest".

The motion was then put and agreed to.

The Calcutta Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 1939.

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: Sir, I beg to submit that the report of the Select Committee on the Calcutta Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 1939, is not yet ready. The Select Committee has asked for more time and the date of presentation of its report may be extended to 30th March, 1939.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is it the opinion of the House that the time be extended to the 30th March?

(There was no objection from any group to the time being extended.)

As there is no objection, time is given for the presentation of the report of the Select Committee on the 30th March, 1939.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned till 4-45 p.m. on Monday, the 27th March, 1939, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Monday, the 27th March, 1939, at 4-45 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. AZIZUL HAQUE, C.I.E.) in the Chair, 11 Hon'ble Ministers and 193 members.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Sir, the Hon'ble Mr. Suhrawardy will be coming shortly.

Mr. SPEAKER: All right. The next question will be taken up now.

Sheristadars in Bengal.

***263. Khan Bahadur Maulvi FAZLUL QADIR:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*i*) how many Sheristadars (Office Superintendents) are there in Bengal at present;

(*ii*) how many of them are Muslims;

(*iii*) how many of them are on extension;

(*iv*) how many extensions have been granted to each of them;

(*v*) how many vacancies were filled up in 1937 and 1938;

(*vi*) how many of them were filled up by the Muslims; and

(*vii*) if no Muslims have been appointed, what are the reasons?

(*b*) What action has been taken by the Government to give effect to the prayers of the Islam Association and District Muslim League embodied in their addresses to the Premier during his recent visit to Chittagong regarding appointment of Muslim Sheristadar in the Collectorate?

MINISTER in charge of the REVENUE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Bijoy Prasad Singh Roy): (*a*) (*i*) to (*vi*) A statement containing the necessary information is laid on the Library table.

(*vii*) Three of the vacancies were advertised in the official gazette and after considering the cases of all applicants, the choice in each case fell on a non-Muslim. The other two vacancies were filled up by promotion of two non-Muslim clerks in consideration of seniority and fitness.

(*b*) The matter is receiving consideration.

Convictions for cutting embankment on Eastern Bengal Railway branch lines.

*264. **Alhadj CYASUDDIN AHMED CHOUDHURY:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Police) Department be pleased to state how many villagers have been convicted for cutting the embankment during the last flood on the Kalukhali-Bhatipara and Madhukhali-Kamarkhali branch lines of the Eastern Bengal Railway?

MINISTER in charge of the HOME DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): Thirty-six.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what was the nature of the punishment inflicted on the accused?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I ask for notice, Sir.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is aware that the defence of the accused in all these cases was that they had not the intention to injure the railway line, but that they had a right to cut the embankment, because it prevented the free flow of flood water and thus caused serious damage to their crops?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: That may be so.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Has the attention of the Hon'ble Minister been drawn to the fact that this embankment prevents the free flow of flood water and thus causes serious damage to the crops of the tenants on one side of the embankment and, if so, has the Hon'ble Minister considered the desirability of moving the Railway Company to make openings for the free flow of water?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: The Communications and Works Department are, I am told, arranging for this.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state, in view of the answer that these embankments sometimes cause damage to the crops of tenants, whether he thinks it desirable to issue instructions to the local authorities——

Mr. SPEAKER: Local authorities? What do you mean by that?

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Yes, local authorities. Will the Hon'ble Minister issue instructions to local authorities to ignore this technical offence?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. PROMATHA RANJAN THAKUR: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the level of water on one side of the embankment is much higher than on the other side, and as such the embankment gives way through the pressure of the water on the side of the higher level?

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid the Hon'ble Home Minister's department does not take any note of higher levels of water. (Laughter.)

SJ. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is prepared to show clemency to the people who have been convicted?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I am prepared to consider this, provided they have not already undergone whatever punishment they have had.

Mr. PROMATHA RANJAN THAKUR: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the villagers had no other alternative but to cut the embankment?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question has already been answered.

Clerks discharged by the District Judge of Noakhali.

*285. **Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Judicial and Legislative Department aware—

(*i*) that 22 temporary clerks have been discharged by the District Judge of Noakhali; and

(*ii*) that they have submitted representations to Government for absorbing them in other Civil Courts of the province or other departments of Government?

(b) If the answer to (a) (ii) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what action, if any, have the Government taken in the matter?

MINISTER in charge of the JUDICIAL and LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Nawab Musharruff Hossain, Khan Bahadur): (a) (i) Some temporary clerks had to be discharged as the amount of work in the Civil Courts in the district did not justify their retention.

(ii) Yes.

(b) The matter is still under consideration.

Mr. MONMOHAN DAS: With reference to answer (b), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state as to how long the matter will remain under consideration?

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur: It will take time.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: With reference to answer (a) (i), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact, or not, that many clerks are forced to work overtime in many civil courts, and, in view of this situation, will the Hon'ble Minister consider the desirability of absorbing these discharged men in those offices where the existing staff is overworked?

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid that your question has been badly framed. You can ask whether Government contemplate the absorption of these men in any other place.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: All right, Sir. Will the Hon'ble Minister consider the desirability of absorbing these discharged hands in those civil courts where the clerks are overworked?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. MONMOHAN DAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how long were these temporary clerks, who were discharged under the order of the District Judge of Noakhali, in service?

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur: I want notice.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the number of the temporary clerks, mentioned in answer (a)(i), who have been discharged?

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur: The number is stated there, in the question itself.

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable member wants to know how many have been discharged.

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur: The number 22 stated in the question, has not been challenged by me. I do not deny that it is correct.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: That was not my question. My question is: in the answer it has been stated "some". I want to know whether it is exactly 22, or more, or less.

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur: I want notice.

Mr. J. N. GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he considers it desirable to absorb these temporary men in other districts where the temporary hands have put in service for a lesser number of years?

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur: The matter is under consideration, and it may be that the honourable member's suggestion will be accepted. It may also be that it will not be accepted.

Introduction of free primary education in Jessore district.

***266. Khan Bahadur Maulana AHMAD ALI ENAYETPURI:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department aware that the public of Jessore is urging for the introduction of free primary education in the district?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what action, if any, has been taken in the matter?

(*c*) Was there any correspondence between the Government and the Jessore District Board regarding the introduction of free primary education in the district?

(*d*) If the answer to (*c*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when did it take place and with what result?

MINISTER in charge of the EDUCATION DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq): There was correspondence between the Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, and the District Board of Jessore in April, 1938, regarding the introduction of free compulsory primary education in the district. In June following the Board passed a resolution recommending the introduction of free compulsory primary education with the simultaneous imposition of the education cess as early as possible. The consideration of the matter had however to be postponed in consequence of the floods that followed. The question of introducing the Act in the district in the near future is now engaging my attention.

Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS: প্রধান মন্ত্রী মহাশয়, দয়া কোরে বোলবেন কি তিনি যে বাজেট discussion এর বেলায়------

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: আমি শুনতে পাচ্ছি না, জোরে বলুন।

Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS: এডুকেশন বাজেট যে দিন আলোচনা হয়েছিলো সে-দিন মন্ত্রী মহাশয় বোলেছিলেন যে এ বছরে প্রায় সব জায়গায় প্রাইমারী স্কুল বোর্ড স্থাপিত হবে, মন্ত্রী মহাশয় এই বছরের মধ্যেই যশোরে free প্রাইমারী এডুকেশন প্রবর্ত্তন কোরবেন কি না?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Yes, Sir, the cess will be imposed this year.

Appointment of Deputy Director of Agriculture.

***267. Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture and Veterinary Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that after the retirement of Rai Sahib Chunilal Mustafi, officiating Deputy Director of Agriculture, no permanent appointment has been made in his place up till now?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the Director's recommendation for appointment has not been accepted?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons thereof?

(*d*) Is it a fact that the senior Marketing Officer, in addition to his own duty has been given the charge of the office of the Deputy Director?

(*e*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many Union Board Farms have been opened in the Western Circle?

(*f*) What is the relation of these farms with the department?

(*g*) How many times on an average in a year does the Deputy Director visit the farms?

MINISTER in charge of the AGRICULTURE and VETERINARY DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Tamizuddin Khan): (*a*) Yes, pending the recruitment of a qualified candidate for the post through the Public Service Commission.

(*b*) and (*c*) The Director's recommendation for filling up the post tentatively by departmental promotion pending the permanent appointment of a Deputy Director did not commend itself to Government on administrative grounds.

(*d*) Yes.

(*e*) Thirty-seven.

(*f*) (*1*) The Department of Agriculture is responsible for the selection of a suitable person who gives 15 *bighas* of land and who undertakes to cultivate the same under departmental guidance.

(*2*) The site of the farm is selected by the department.

(*3*) The department draws up a Cropping Scheme for the said farms and supervises their working according to the Cropping Scheme.

(*4*) A departmental Demonstrator is posted in charge of one Union Board Farm and three Demonstration Centres.

(*5*) Seeds, sugarcane cuttings and chemical and organic manures (castor cake) are supplied free of cost by the department to these Union Board Farms.

(*6*) Each Union Board Farm is assisted in preparing artificial farmyard manure, a shed over manure pit and a *gola* for storing paddy seeds.

(*g*) Owing to frequent changes in the personnel of the Deputy Director of Agriculture, Western Circle, due to death and retirement and other causes it has not been possible during the past year for the officer to visit the Union Board Farms. These farms are, however, worked under the direct supervision of the District Agricultural Officers who have to submit quarterly progress reports to the Deputy Director of Agriculture and Director of Agriculture, Bengal.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় আমার (*g*) প্রশ্নের উত্তর দেন নাই।

মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় কি অনুগ্রহ কোরে বোলবেন যে মার্কেটিং অফিসর এবং Deputy Director এই দুই পদেই তার একার পক্ষে কাজ করা সম্ভব নয়?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: As far as I know, he said that it will be difficult for him to carry on the duties of both the offices.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় কি জানেন যে Director যে Officer কে মনোনয়ন করিয়াছিল তাঁর ভারতীয় ও বিদেশী শিক্ষা ছিল?

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid, you are supplying the information yourself. Questions should be put for the purpose of eliciting information and not for the purpose of supplying it.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Director যে Officer কে মনোনয়ন কোরে department এ পাঠিয়েছে তাঁর ভারতীয় শিক্ষা এবং বিদেশী শিক্ষা কেমন ছিলো,—এবং তিনি বহু দিন department এ কাজ কোরেছেন এ কথা কি সত্য?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: I think so, Sir.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় দয়া কোরে বোলবেন কি তিনি কতদিন এই department এ কাজ কোরছেন?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: I cannot give the number of years but it is for a pretty long time.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the Government are contemplating to put a European officer in that post.

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: No, Sir.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if a European Officer has recently been recruited from Burma who has been promised that he would be given that office so that he would eventually be promoted to the office of the Director of Agriculture?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Probably Dr. Sanyal knows more about this than I do.

Maintenance of Government high English schools in Bengal.

***283. Mr. SADARUDDIN AHMED:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state the amount the Government spend annually for maintenance of Government high English schools throughout the province?

(*b*) Have the Government received a copy of the resolution of the Teachers' Conference held at Khulna last year requesting the Government to convert all the Government high English schools into aided ones?

(*c*) If so, what action, if any, have the Government taken on the resolution?

(*d*) If no action has yet been taken, are the Government considering the desirability of giving effect to the resolution with a view to supplementing the resources of privately managed schools of the province?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: (*a*) Rs. 14,45,037 (in 1937-38).

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) The question of deprovincialisation of high English schools arose out of the recommendation of the Retrenchment Committee. This matter was considered by the former Government and was ultimately dropped. The present Government have however provided an extra allotment of Rs. 1,00,000 for grants to boys' secondary schools and Rs. 70,000 for grants to girls' secondary schools in 1938-39. It is also proposed to make a further additional provision of Rs. 1,00,000 for boys' schools and Rs. 1,00,000 for girls' schools in 1939-40.

(*d*) Does not arise.

Mr. PROMATHA RANJAN THAKUR: With reference to (*c*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the reasons for which the former Government dropped the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I am not in a position to disclose that.

Mr. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় জানেন কি যে পূর্ব্বতন গভর্ণমেন্ট ক্রমশঃ deprovincialised করার নীতি গ্রহণ করিয়াছিলেন?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I am not aware of that.

Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS: বর্ত্তমান গভর্ণমেন্ট এ সম্বন্ধে কি কোরবেন মন্ত্রী মহাশয় দয়া কোরে জানাবেন কি?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: We are helping the existing schools till any final decision is taken.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if this grant of Rs. 2 lakhs provided in 1939-40 is meant as capital grant or grant-in-aid or both?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Maintenance grant.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Suhrawardy, you have the reputation of being late at lunches and dinners. (Laughter.) There was a question in your name to-day and you were not in your seat when the question was called out.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I am sorry, Sir. I was under the impression that the department had withdrawn the answer. At first I gave credit for good faith to the questioner, but later on I came to the conclusion that the question was made in a tendencious spirit. I thought it was withdrawn but it seems that fact has not been communicated to your office. However, I am prepared to answer it.

Trade Unions.

*262. **Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Commerce and Labour Department be pleased to state—

(a) how many Trade Unions during the year 1938-39 he has promoted;

(b) how many Trade Unions have been formed under his encouragement;

(c) how many of them have been recognised by Government;

(d) how many of them have secured recognitions for the employees; and

(e) how many of them are financially helped by Government?

MINISTER in charge of the COMMERCE and LABOUR DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy): (a) and (b) None.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

Mr. PROMATHA RANJAN THAKUR: The answer is in the negative all through. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he has found any communist tendency in the Trade Unions formed?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: (b) র উত্তর প্রসঙ্গে মাননীয় শ্রমিক মন্ত্রী মহাশয় বোলবেন কি বিজ্‌জিবাচি মজুর ইউনিয়নের শ্রমিকেরা প্রায়ই এসে বলে যে "এটা সুরাবর্দী সাহেবের ইউনিয়ন", এটা কি মিথ্যা কথা?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. A. M. A. ZAMAN: মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় ডকারস্ ইউনিয়ন নামে একটা ইউনিয়ন কোরেছেন, তার মিটিংএ যান এবং সাহায্য করেন একথা সত্য কি না?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise. The fact is that it is denied; so you will have to put another supplementary question.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(to which answers were laid on the table)

Government aid to Langalkot and Monoharganj Union Board dispensaries.

92. **Maulvi MD. HASANUZZAMAN:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Medical Department aware—

(*i*) that there are two Union Board dispensaries at Laksam police-station of Tippera district—one is at Langalkot and another is at Monoharganj, both receiving aid from Union Boards and the District Board; and

(*ii*) that no aid by Government is given to these dispensaries?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, are the Government considering the desirability of taking necessary steps to grant an aid of at least Rs. 500 per annum to each of the said dispensaries?

MINISTER in charge of the PUBLIC HEALTH and MEDICAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Tamizuddin Khan): (*a*) (*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) These two dispensaries were established with the capital contribution made out of the Government of India Rural Uplift Grant. Rs. 1,600 was paid for Langalkot dispensary and Rs. 1,000 for Monoharganj dispensary. The above capital grants were made on condition that the recurring expenditure involved in each case should be definitely assured from local source.

(*b*) Does not arise.

I may, however, state for the information of the hon'ble member that Government are further considering the question as to whether the dispensaries towards the establishment of which capital contributions were made from the Government of India's Rural Uplift Grant should participate in the grants provided for subsidising thana and village dispensaries.

Order of restriction on Amitabha Bhowmik of Dacca.

83. **Mr. MONORANJAN BANERJI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Police) Department be pleased to state whether any order of restriction is in force on Amitabha Bhowmik, son of Sj. Kedareswar Bhowmik, of Maijhail, police-station Sabhar, district Dacca?

(*b*) If so, from when and what is the nature of such restriction?

(*c*) Are the Government considering the desirability of withdrawing the restrictions or rigour of such restrictions, to enable him to pick up and pursue a course of earning?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) He was externed from Calcutta in 1934, under section 7 (*1*) (*b*) of the Bengal Smuggling of Arms Act, 1934.

(*c*) Government are not prepared to withdraw or modify the orders of restriction.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: With reference to answer (*c*) since the Government are not prepared to withdraw the orders of restriction, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to enlighten us whether he is being given any allowance, and if so, whether that allowance will be continued till the restriction orders are withdrawn?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: No allowance is given.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister kindly explain how that gentleman is to earn his livelihood so long as he remains under restriction?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: In these cases no allowances are given.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is right to make no provision for the people who will be restricted by the orders of Government particularly when this young man will be stranded?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to enlighten us about the extra-special reasons for which these restrictions have not been removed while restrictions against all others have been removed?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: On grounds of public policy.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to explain how is it that the young man who was arrested in the year 1934 is still under restriction in the year 1939 for the safety of the Government?

Mr. SPEAKER: You want to know why he is still under restriction. Repeat your question.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why the young man who was arrested in 1934 is still under restriction?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDIN: He was externed under the Bengal Smuggling of Arms Act 1934, for a number of years and that order still stands.

Babu NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRABARTY: মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় কি মনে করেন যে এই যুবককে অবিলম্বে মুক্তিদান কোরলে তাঁদের গভর্ণমেন্ট বিপন্ন হোয়ে পোড়বে?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Babu NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRABARTY: যে সমস্ত যুবক গভর্ণমেন্টের আদেশে বাংলা ছেড়ে যেতে বাধ্য হয়েছে, তাদের সম্বন্ধে কি প্রকারের নীতি অবলম্বিত হয়েছে, মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় অনুগ্রহ কোরে সেটা স্পষ্টভাবে বোলবেন কি?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: The answer is obvious. They were smuggling arms and Government do not consider it advisable that these people should be allowed to come back.

Babu NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRABARTY: গভর্ণমেন্ট কি মনে করেন যে এই যুবককে তার নিজের স্বদেশ থেকে নির্বাসিত রাখার ব্যবস্থা উঠিয়ে দিয়ে তার স্বদেশে প্রত্যাবর্ত্তনের অনুমতি প্রদান কোরলে গভর্ণমেন্ট বিপন্ন হোয়ে পোড়বেন?

The Hon'ble Sir Khwaja NAZIMUDDIN: We want to prevent smuggling of arms and this man's presence here will lead to smuggling of arms.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the Government will consider the desirability of re-examining this question?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I have got nothing further to add. This question has been re-examined.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the circumstances under which the question of this gentleman will be again gone into, *i.e.*, when that circumstances will arise and under what circumstances?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: It all depends on Government being satisfied that this—

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: What will satisfy Government?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: That I cannot answer in course of a question.

Babu NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRABARTY: মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় কি এই পরিষদকে এ বিষয় অবগত করাবেন যে ১৯৩৪ সাল থেকে আজ পর্যন্ত এই যুবক বাংলার বাইরে থাকা সত্ত্বেও গোপনে অস্ত্রশস্ত্র আমদানির কোন কার্যে লিপ্ত আছে?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: It is obvious that we have not got reports as to what he is doing, because he is not in Bengal.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: In view of the fact that we are always afraid of approaching Sir Nazimuddin, will he kindly consider the desirability of giving some allowance to the young man, so that he can live?

Mr. SPEAKER: One must be a heavy-weight champion to move Sir Nazimuddin. (Laughter.)

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় কি অনুগ্রহ কোরে বোলবেন,—তাদের বিরুদ্ধে Arms smuggling এর কথা যে বলা হয়েছে—এটা যদি গভর্ণমেন্টের জানাই থাকে তবে কেন তাদের prosecute করা হলো না?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Because there were also provisions of the Smuggling of Arms Act and action could be taken under them.

Separate arrangement for teaching Arabic, Persian, etc., in colleges.

94. Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of colleges separately where (*i*) Sanskrit and Bengali and (*ii*) Arabic and Persian are taught;

(*b*) where Sanskrit and Bengali are taught by (*i*) same teacher and (*ii*) different teacher;

(*c*) where Arabic and Persian are taught by (*i*) same teacher and (*ii*) different teacher; and

(*d*) are the Government considering the desirability of making separate arrangement for teaching Arabic and Persian in (*i*) colleges and (*ii*) high madrassahs by different persons?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: (*a*) A list of Government colleges for men affiliated to the Calcutta University in Bengali, Sanskrit, Urdu, Arabic and Persian is laid on the table.

(*b*) to (*d*) According to University rulings all these subjects are taught by properly qualified teachers. Separate teachers are provided for teaching each of these subjects. But the Sanskrit teachers often assist in the teaching of Bengali and likewise Arabic and Persian teachers assist in the teaching of Urdu. Again the Arabic teachers assist in teaching Persian and the Persian teachers assist in teaching Arabic where necessary and possible.

What is demanded by the University is properly qualified teachers and adequate teaching. If this is provided, it is immaterial and often waste of funds to provide separate teachers exclusively for teaching each of the two subjects, Arabic and Persian.

It is not therefore considered desirable to provide separate staff for each of these two subjects in all cases.

No Persian is taught in high madrassahs.

Statement referred to in the reply to clauses (a) (i) and (ii) of unstarred question No. 94 showing the names of Government Colleges affiliated to Calcutta University in Bengali, Sanskrit, Arabic, Persian and Urdu.

Name of Government College.	Names of vernacular and classical subjects taught.							
	Bengali (Vernacular.)	Bengali (Second Language) for B.A. Examination.	Sanskrit Second Language.	Urdu (Vernacular.)	Urdu Second Language.	Arabic.	Persian.	Remarks.
(1) Presidency College, Calcutta.	Bengali	..	Sanskrit .	Urdu	.	Arabic .	Persian ..	Pali is also taught in this College.
(2) Sanskrit College, Calcutta.	Do. ..	.	Do.		.	..	.	
(3) Islamia College, Calcutta.	Do. .	.	..	Urdu ..	..	Arabic	Persian.	
(4) Rajshahi College, Rajshahi.	Do. .	.	Sanskrit .	..	..	Do. ..	Do.	
(5) Chittagong College, Chittagong.	Do. ..	Bengali ..	Do. ..	Urdu	..	Do. ..	Do. .	Pali is also taught in this College.
(6) Hooghly Mohsin College, Chinsura.	Do. ..	..	Do. ..	Do. .	..	.. (a)	Do. ..	(a) This College is proposed to be affiliated in Arabic from 1939-40.
(7) Krishnagar College, Krishnagar.	Do. ..	..	Do. ..	..	..	..	Do.	

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Arabic and Persian are of different origins, namely, of Semitic and Aryan while Sanskrit and Bengali are of Aryan origin only?

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid you must go to the Philology Department.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the words, grammars, ancient histories and cultures of Arabic and Persian languages are different?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I do not know. The question is on certain grammatical forms of expression in the two languages and that is something which I cannot answer, because I cannot follow the question which is somewhat confusing.

Compulsory religious instructions in primary schools.

95. Mr. S. A. SALIM: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state what steps, if any, have been taken by the Government to make religious instructions compulsory in primary schools?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware—

(*i*) that in the Government scheme provision for religious instructions is made without any examination for the same; and

(*ii*) that there is a feeling amongst the Muslim community that religious instructions be made compulsory in primary schools?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the affirmative, are the Government considering the desirability of making religious instructions compulsory in primary schools?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: (*a*) Religious instruction forms a part of the new curriculum for primary schools and provision will, as far as possible, be made in every primary school for religious instruction during school hours of every child attending the school, in the religion of the guardian of such child, provided that at the request in writing of the guardian of any child, such child shall be exempted from religious instruction.

(*b*) (*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) I am aware that such a feeling exists among some Muslims.

(c) There are practical difficulties in the way of making religious instruction compulsory, e.g., in schools where Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist and Unan children all read together. Government will try to ensure that as far as practicable facilities for religious instruction will be available.

Rajapur High English School, Bakarganj.

96. Mr. SADARUDDIN AHMED: (a) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department aware—

(i) that the Rajapur High English School is the only high English school in the thana of Rajapur in the district of Bakarganj; and

(ii) that the said thana is one of the educationally backward ones?

(b) Have the Government received any application for granting an aid to this school?

(c) If the answer to (a) (ii) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what action have the Government taken thereon?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: (a) Yes

(b) and (c) Government have not received any application for a grant-in-aid to the school but it has been ascertained that a recurring grant of Rs 100 per month has been sanctioned by the Inspector of Schools to the school during the current financial year.

Delay in answering questions.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: I would like to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Speaker to the fact that the questions put by me last year could not be replied They were revived this year and I was informed by the office that the questions were sent to the departments concerned for reply on the 30th January, but up till now no reply has been received from them

Mr. SPEAKER: I will enquire into the matter.

Permission to Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi to be absent during the Session.

Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: I beg to move that this Assembly do permit Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi representing Muslim Chamber of Commerce constituency to be absent for the period from the 15th February, 1939, to the end of the current session for which he finds that he is unable to attend meetings of the Assembly.

The motion was put and agreed to.

Matter of Explanation.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I want to know on a matter of explanation if it is a fact that all the members of the Congress party who are serving on the Select Committee on the Calcutta Municipal (Amendment) Bill have walked out as a protest against the attitude of that committee. If that is so, it is the privilege of the House either to send other representatives there or see whether the Select Committee will function or not.

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not know anything yet. I will ascertain what has happened.

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

11 Registration.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 1,73,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "11 Registration" during the year 1938-39.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Datta, may I know what is the purpose of your motion?

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: The purpose is to draw the attention of Government to the matter of issuing notices. Instead of the notices being issued through the post office they can be issued through the Union Boards.

Mr. SPEAKER: Does not that require a change in the law

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: The change in the law can be made by us.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid it cannot be done here in this motion.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq that a sum of Rs. 1,73,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "11—Registration" during the current year 1938-39 was then put and agreed to.

22—Interest on debt and other obligations.

The Hon'ble Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKER: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 6,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "22—Interest on debt and other obligations", during the current year 1938-39.

The motion was then put and agreed to

43—Industries—Cinchona.

The Hon'ble Mr. PRASANNA DEB RAIKUT: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 15,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "43 Industries—Cinchona" during the current year 1938-39.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 15,000 under the head "43 Industries—Cinchona" be reduced by Rs 100.

Sir, I should like to draw your attention

Mr. SPEAKER: I hope you will be very brief. I may say that there is a meeting to-day in memory of the late Lord Brabourne which many people are anxious to attend I hope you will kindly be very brief.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: In the explanatory memorandum the Hon'ble Minister says that the expenditure is imperative from the administrative side of the department What I say is this that though Bengal is afflicted with malaria ad though several lakhs of people are dying of malaria every year the sanction for quinine that the Government have granted is very meagre in comparison with the death roll.

The Hon'ble Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKER: On a point of order, Sir. That has nothing to do with the grant. This is for a separate purpose, namely, for Cinchona plantation.

Mr. SPEAKER: You have only to raise the question of the desirability or otherwise of extending the Cinchona plantation.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: I am coming to that point. From the year 1935 this Council was insisting on the Government to extend the cultivation of cinchona and Government gave repeated assurances on the matter. There was also some correspondence between the Government and the Bengal Chemical and Pharmaceutical Works.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid you are out of order.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: I am only discussing the question of increasing the cultivation of cinchona.

Mr. SPEAKER: You have said enough.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Then I would like to say this that the establishment expenditure under this department so far as the Manager and Quinine Experts are concerned is very heavy, and that it goes against the interests of the country. As such I would like to commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

The Hon'ble Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKER: No reply is necessary.

The motion of Mr. Atul Krishna Ghose that the demand of Rs. 15,000 under the head "43—Industries—Cinchona" during the current year 1938-39 be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The substantive motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Prasanna Deb Raikut that a sum of Rs. 15,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "43—Industries—Cinchona" during the current year 1938-39 was then put and agreed to.

54—Famine Relief.

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 6,50,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "54—Famine Relief" during the current year 1938-39.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 6,50,000 under the head "54—Famine Relief" during the current year 1938-39 be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise discussion about the Government's failure to organize effective relief Societies in the areas affected by the last flood.

Sir, mine is a very modest motion. The Hon'ble the Finance Minister in the course of his budget speech said that he hoped that there would be no flood next year.

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: May I ask your ruling on this point, Sir, whether the mover of the cut motion can raise questions of policy?

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, so far as the supplementary budget is concerned.

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: It is the general criticisms that he is making.

Mr. SPEAKER: That he cannot.

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: May I draw your attention to the wording of the amendment "failure to organize effective relief societies in the areas affected by the last flood"?

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid, Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal, you will have to restrict yourself to the demand. In the course of the budget discussion general principles have, as you know, already been discussed.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: The Hon'ble the Finance Minister expressed the hope in the course of his budget speech that there would be no recurrence of flood. I wish I could share his optimism but as it is I cannot, while this demand is before the house I want to impress upon the Government the necessity of not merely making provision for funds but also of setting up an organization so that we can get the greatest return from the money spent. In the last flood money was spent, but the return for the money spent was not much because there was absolute lack of organization and the Government were taken by surprise. I hope Government will set up a machinery in order to safeguard against any surprise and for that purpose I beg most humbly to suggest on the basis of the experience of the last flood that Government will forthwith introduce a scheme of famine relief committee, with a central committee at the headquarters and branch committees distributed over the affected areas. I will give a few instances. From the headquarters money was allotted and relief officers carried the money to rural Bengal, but for some reason

or other relief could not reach the affected areas in time. Therefore, it is necessary that, instead of expecting that there would be no flood, Government should anticipate recurrence of floods and make provision accordingly. I may frankly say without meaning any undue pride for the Congoess side and undue criticism of the Government—and I hope the Hon'ble Revenue Minster will also agree with us—that our humble Congress organisation with only Rs. 10,000 did more and quicker relief work in the flood-affected areas than what Government did with lakhs of rupees. I hope Government will be benefited by this experience and will not depend on the red-tapism of the official hierarchy. A committee should be set up in each union board of the flood-affected areas with the union-board members and others, because there are party factions in the villages, and I would give this invitation to the Government that in every area the Congress organisation would be too eager with a missionary spirit to assist them in the relief-work organisation, and I would also expect the Hon'ble Minister to inspire the same missionary spirit in the minds of the Government officers——.

(At the stage the member having reached the time-limit, resumed his seat.)

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 6,50,000 for expenditure under the head "54—Famine Relief" during the current year, 1938-39, be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the inadequacy of the grant and distribution of gratuitous relief.

Sir, much more money Government would have and could have spent on gratuitous relief. We were given to understand at the conference held in the Writers' Buildings that three kinds of relief would be given—(1) agricultural loan, (2) gratuitous relief, and (3) *bhadralog* loan money. A press note was also issued to the effect that Government would seriously consider the granting of *bhadralog* loan money. About the granting of gratuitous relief the policy enunciated by the members of this House was agreed upon, namely, that relief must reach every needy door. But I am sorry, Sir, to tell the members of this House that that policy was not acted upon. Much less than what was required was given. This is evident from the statements made by other members of this House, especially of the Coalition party, which appeared in the shape of cut motions tabled by them. No less than a dozen members did table cut motions about the inadequacy of relief given under the head "gratuitous relief". My honourable friend Mr. Golam Sarwar, who is one of the staunchest supporters of Government, went further and complained that owing to inadequate gratuitous relief, several deaths took place in the district of Noakhali. I have also been informed that several deaths took place in my district of

Faridpur. Sir, the Hon'ble Minister may not believe my statement because I happen to be a member of the Congress party, but will he disbelieve the statement of Mr. Golam Sarwar?

Then, Sir, although the Hon'ble Minister told us that relief would reach every needy door, the procedure adopted for giving relief was far from satisfactory. It was discussed and agreed upon at the said conference that relief committees would be set up at every union, and that those relief committees would prepare estimates of relief, that those estimates would be checked by the Circle Officers and submitted before the Subdivisional Relief Committee, and that distribution of relief would be made according to the approved lists of the Subdivisional Committees. But, Sir, what did actually happen? Will any member present in this House coming from the mufussil, at least from the affected districts, say that any such relief committee was formed at any union? Or was it not a fact that no such committee was formed in any union, and that the Circle Officers were asked by the Subdivisional Officers to request each of the presidents of union boards under their respective jurisdictions to submit 200 to 300 or 400 names, as it suited the sweet will of the Subdivisional Officers and then to grant for these listed agriculturists Rs. 5 per head as agricultural loan? That means that a maximum of Rs. 2,000 was granted for each union, to be given as loan at the rate of Rs. 5 per head—not more, not less. In every union there were no less than two thousand needy agriculturists on an average and the relief in the shape of agricultural loan was given to not more than 20 per cent. of the needy people—the people who lost everything, both the *Aus* and *Aman* paddy and also jute. But what about the rest of the people? Sir, no relief was given to the remaining 80 per cent. I wish to refer here to the march of the hunger-strikers which took place at Madaripur, and which is known to every member of this House.

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit, resumed his seat.)

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Sir, first of all I must say that I am grateful to my honourable friend, Mr. Sanyal, for his constructive suggestion and the spirit in which it has been made. He said that Government relief was not so systematically distributed as the 10,000 rupees of the Congress. But I must say that Government had to work under certain disadvantages, because they had to handle public money, whereas the Congress organisations handled private money—I mean, subscription money—which was placed absolutely at their disposal, and I do not know whether they have to render very meticulous accounts of it or not. That is one great disadvantage from which Government organisations suffer. His next suggestion is

to set up permanent organisations so that they may be utilised whenever there is a natural calamity, such as flood, famine, etc. Government will carefully consider this suggestion and examine the whole problem in the light of the experience gained.

As regards the complaints of my friend Mr. Surendra Nath Biswas about the inadequacy of relief, I would just point out that the amount of money distributed on the last occasion was the highest ever distributed in the history of this province. The total amount distributed by Government in the shape of gratuitous relief and agricultural loan comes to nearly Rs 64,00,000, and about 4 lakhs of rupees are still in the course of distribution. I do not think my honourable friend seriously suggests that the amount was inadequate. The honourable member must remember that the major portion of it was loan and has to be repaid by the loanees. Sir, Mr. Biswas's own district Faridpur received Rs. 6,60,000 as agricultural loan, Rs. 30,000 as gratuitous relief, and Rs. 31,000 as advances for test relief work. Does he seriously contend that this amount were inadequate? ..... (MR. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Yes.) . If he says, yes, I do not know what to say in reply But he must remember that Government relief measures depend on the total amount available to Government. It must bear some ratio to the total revenues of the province. Nearly three quarters of a crore is by no means an inadequate proportion in case of a province whose total revenues do not exceed 13 crores.

With these few words, Sir, I oppose both the cut motions.

The motion of Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal that the demand of Rs. 6,50,000 for expenditure under the head "54—Famine Relief" during the current year 1938-39 be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Surendra Nath Biswas that the demand of Rs. 6,50,000 for expenditure under the head "54—Famine relief" during the current year 1938-39 be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The main motion of the Hon'ble Sir Bijoy Prasad Singh Roy that a sum of Rs. 6,50,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "54—Famine relief" during the current year 1938-39 was then put and agreed to.

55—Superannuation allowances and pensions and 55A—Commutations of pensions financed from ordinary revenue.

The Hon'ble Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKER: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 3,65,000 be granted for expenditure under the heads "55—Superannuation allowances and pensions" and "55A—Commutations of pensions financed from ordinary revenue" during the current year 1938-39.

Mr. SPEAKER: Will you please move the next demand also?

Deposits and Advances.

The Hon'ble Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKER: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 1,10,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "Interest Free Advances" during the current year 1938-39.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Nalini Ranjan Sarker that a sum of Rs. 3,65,000 be granted for expenditure under the heads "55—Superannuation allowances and pensions" and "55A—Commutations of pensions financed from ordinary revenue" during the current year 1938-39 was then put and agreed to.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Nalini Ranjan Sarker that a sum of Rs. 1,10,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "Interest Free Advances" during the current year 1938-39 was then put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKER: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 18,00,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "Loans and Advances by Provincial Governments" during the current year 1938-39.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand for a sum of Rs. 18,00,000 for expenditure under the head "Loans and Advances by Provincial Governments" during the current year 1938-39 be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the insufficiency of grant.

In the Explanatory Memorandum, Sir, it has been stated: "The original provision was 5 lakhs. To meet the situation arising out of the floods, a supplementary grant of 30 lakhs was voted by the Assembly in August last. A further supplementary grant of 18 lakhs is now necessary."

Sir, my intention in moving this cut motion is to draw your attention to the mismanagement, misappropriation and misuse of public funds in the course of——

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Ghose, please don't be so contradictory as that! (Laughter.)

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Sir, as the time is short, I shall speak on my motion as well as on the motion that stands in the name of Mr. Nikunja Behari Maiti.

Sir, in the rural areas we have seen that Government have not created any credit organisation, nor have they advanced sufficient funds so as to enable the poor people, particularly the agriculturists, to go on with their usual avocations in order to earn their livelihood. The net result of all this has been that the people have died of starvation, particularly in my district of Jessore, in the Lohagara police-station. I know, Sir, that in many cases people have committed suicide under pain of starvation. Reports of such incidents appeared in the newspapers, but Government did not take any steps whatsoever to alleviate the distress of the people. The only thing they did was to distribute five maunds of rice in that police-station of Lohagara. Are we to understand, Sir, that Government will make demands for lakhs and lakhs of rupees in this House, but at the time of giving relief they will think that distribution of five or ten maunds of rice in a famine-stricken area is quite enough? May I ask where does all this money go? I pause for an answer from the Hon'ble Minister.

Then, Sir, we know that hunger-marches were going on before, and are going on still, in the different parts of the country, but Government have taken no action whatsoever to redress the grievances of those hungry people. Then, again, Sir, we have found that Subdivisional Officers and Circle Officers are quite incompetent. They are absolutely indifferent to the misfortunes, miseries and privations of the people who are suffering from the aftermath of the floods. The Hon'ble Sir Bijoy Prasad Singh Roy the other day said that the agricultural loan that Government had given did not exceed Rs. 4 *per capita*. Since there are no suitable rural credit organisations in the villages and Government have not provided for the establishment of any credit organisations, and since they have decided that the agricultural loans should not be over Rs. 4 *per capita*, how can they expect that the people can live under these circumstances? I should like to have an answer from the Hon'ble Sir Bijoy Prasad Singh Roy regarding this matter.

With these few words, Sir, I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

The Hon'ble Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all, I submit that, though provision has been made for Rs. 18 lakhs under this head, we have actually already spent more than Rs. 18 lakhs. Since the presentation of the supplementary estimate, we have received demands from certain Collectors, and we had to meet them. (Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Further supplementary demands will come up before the House?) No, not this year.

Sir, Mr. Atul Krishna Ghose said that much of the money had been misappropriated. I do not know how it could be done. All these amounts were paid to individual cultivators, and if there is any misappropriation, I am sure the Accountant-General of Bengal would be able to detect it. Sir, I oppose the motion.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: May I make a personal explanation, Sir?

Mr. SPEAKER: No, it is not necessary.

The motion of Mr. Atul Krishna Ghose that the demand for Rs. 18,00,000 for expenditure under the head "Loans and Advances by Provincial Governments" during the current year 1938-39 was then put and lost.

The original motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Nalini Ranjan Sarker that a sum of Rs. 18,00,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "Loans and Advances by Provincial Governments" during the current year 1938-39 was then put and agreed to.

Adjournment.

The Assembly was then adjourned till 4-45 p.m on Tuesday, the 28th March, 1939, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

B. G. Press—1939-40—9A—800.

Index to the
Bengal Legislative Assembly Proceedings

(Official Report.)

Vol. LIV—No. 4—Fifth Session, 1939.

20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th and 27th March, 1939.

[(Q.) Stands for questions.]

Abdul Hafiz, Mr. Mirza

Flood relief in Tangail subdivision: (Q.) p. 3.

Separate arrangements for teaching Arabic, Persian, etc., in Colleges: (Q.) p. 318.

Abdul Hakeem, Mr.

Establishment of charitable dispensary at Terokhada, Khulna: (Q.) p. 17.

Abdul Hakim, Maulvi

Pargana rate: (Q.) p. 93.

Rate of rent in temporarily-settled Government Estate: (Q.) p. 78.

Waiting sheds for witnesses in civil and criminal courts of Mymensingh: (Q.) p. 22.

Abdul Hakim Vikrampuri, Maulvi Md.

General Administration—Debt Conciliation—25. pp. 237-239.

Jails and Convicts Settlement—28: pp. 253-254.

Abdul Jabbar, Maulvi

Irrigation—XVII, etc.: pp. 164-165.

Abdul Latif Biswas, Maulvi

Police—29: pp. 63-65.

Abdul Majid, Mr. Syed

Clerks discharged by the District Judge of Noakhali: (Q.) p. 306.

Lecturers in Calcutta Madrassah: (Q.) p. 12.

Misappropriation of money in Nalchira Khas Mahal office in Noakhali district: (Q.) p. 18.

Miscellaneous—57: p. 291.

Abdul Wahab Khan, Mr.

Irrigation—XVII, etc.: pp. 185-187.

Abdulla-al Mahmood, Mr.

Appointment of Buchanan Physical Instructors: (Q.) p. 76.

Breaches in the Jamuna at Serajganj: (Q.) p. 1.

Abdur Rahman, Khan Bahadur Mr. A. F. M.

Cottage industries in 24-Parganas: (Q.) p. 26.

Abdur Rahman Siddiqi, Mr.

Permission to—to be absent during the session: p. 321.

Abdur Rashid Mahmood, Mr.

Establishment of Pabna Collectorate: (Q.) p. 71.

Irrigation—XVII, etc.: pp. 176-178.

Police—29: pp. 57-59.

Gratis

Abdur Razzak, Maulvi

General Administration—Debt Conciliation—25: pp. 235-236.

Abidur Reza Chowdhury, Khan Bahadur Maulvi

Irrigation—XVII, etc.: pp. 161-162.

Abul Fazl, Mr. Md.

Irrigation—XVII, etc.: pp. 159-161.

Abul Hosain Ahmed, Mr.

Police—29: pp. 52-53.

Want of public latrine at Sub-Registry office, Netrokona, Mymensingh: (Q.) p. 8.

Accidents in Calcutta

Motor—: (Q.) p. 14.

Adjournment motion

Regarding the hunger-strike of the workers in the Radha Krishna Jute Mill: pp. 98-102.

Adjournment of the House: pp. 66, 67. 135, 204, 259, 303, 331.

Agricultural firm in Suri, Birbhum: (Q.) p. 80.

Agricultural loan and gratuitous relief in Pabna: (Q.) p. 72.

Agricultural loans

Gratuitous relief and—in the subdivision of Tippera: (Q.) p. 23.

Ahmed Ali Enayetpuri, Khan Bahadur Maulana

Debt Settlement Boards in Jessore: (Q.) p. 94.

Introduction of free primary education in Jessore district: (Q.) p. 308.

Irrigation—XVII, etc.: pp. 173-174.

Ahmed Khan, Mr. Syed

Jails and Convicts Settlement—28: pp. 252-253.

Personnel of the Debt Settlement Board of Uttar Hamchadi, Noakhali: (Q.) p. 94.

Appointment

Of Buchanan Physical Instructors: (Q.) p. 76.

Of Deputy Director of Agriculture: (Q.) p. 309.

Appointments to Muslims

Sixty per cent. of—: (Q.) p. 205.

Arial Bil Water-hyacinth Control Scheme: (Q.) p. 87.

Asimuddin Ahmed, Mr.

General Administration—Debt Conciliation—25: pp. 242-243.

Attendance: pp. 1, 67, 68, 136, 205, 260, 304.

Aulad Hossain Khan, Maulvi

Recruitment of non-Bengali police constables: (Q.) p. 69.

Banerjee, Dr. Suresh Chandra

Floods at Panchkura police-station, Midnapore: (Q.) p. 73.

Trade unions: (Q.) p. 313.

Banerjee, Mr. Sibnath

Adjournment motion regarding the hunger-strike of the workers in the Radha Krishna Jute Mill: pp. 98, 100-101.

Administration of Justice—27: pp. 124-125.

Miscellaneous—57: pp. 288-291.

Police—29: pp. 53-55.

Stay-in-strike in Radha Kissen Cotton Mills No. 2 of Belur, Howrah: (Q.) p. 260.

Banerji, Mr. P.

Police—29: pp. 44-47.

Bannerjee, Mr. Monoranjan

Arial Bil Water-hyacinth Control Scheme: (Q.) p. 87.

Irrigation—XVII, etc.: pp. 174-175.

Jails and Convicts Settlement—28: pp. 248-251.

Order of restriction on Amitabha Bhowmik of Dacca: (Q.) p. 315.

Police—29: pp. 49-51.

Barat Ali, Mr. Mohamad

Relief to the peasants of Serajganj subdivision: (Q.) p. 208.

Barisal municipal election: (Q.) p. 89.

Barma, Babu Premhari

Irrigation—XVII, etc.: pp. 170-171.

Barman, Babu Shyama Prosad

General Administration—Debt Conciliation—25: pp. 233-235.

Settlement Kanungos: (Q.) p. 86.

Barman, Babu Upendra Nath

Jotedars and chukanidars in Jalpaiguri Khas Mahal: (Q.) p. 85.

Basu, Mr. Santosh Kumar

Irrigation—XVII, etc.: pp. 188-189.

Bhowmik, Dr. Gobinda Chandra

Recording measurements in the measurement book by passed overseers: (Q.) p. 2.

Bill

The Calcutta Municipal (Amendment), 1939: p. 303.

Biswas, Mr. Rasik Lal

General Administration—Debt Conciliation—25: pp. 236-237.

Biswas, Mr. Surendra Nath

Famine Relief—56: pp. 326-327.

Tenancy right on laws under the Faridpur Scheme: (Q.) p. 209.

Brahmaputra

Erosion of the—: (Q.) p. 96.

Breaches

In the Jamuna at Serajganj: (Q.) p. 1.

Breeding bulls

Distribution of—: (Q.) p. 95.

Buchanan Physical Instructors

Appointment of—: (Q.) p. 76.

Burdwan district

Education of the Scheduled Castes students in—: (Q.) p. 85.

Calcutta

Motor accidents in—: (Q.) p. 14.

Calcutta Madrassah

Lecturers in—: (Q.) p. 12.

Calcutta Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 1939: p. 303.

Chakrabarty, Babu Narendra Narayan

Agricultural loan and gratuitous relief in Pabna: (Q.) p. 72.

Erosion of Brahmaputra: (Q.) p. 96.

Expenses of Government for reporting speeches by Intelligence Branch reporters at Pabna: (Q.) p. 20.

Police—29: pp. 36-41.

Charitable dispensary

Establishment of—at Terokhada, Khulna: (Q.) p. 17.

Chattopadhyay, Mr. Haripada

Government stipends to the tols of Nabadwip: (Q.) p. 142.

Chaudhuri, Rai Harendra Nath

Hindu students reading in maktabs: (Q.) p. 145.

Irrigation—XVII, etc.: pp. 178-179.

Chaukanidars

Rights of jotedars and—in the Western Duars Khas Mahal: (Q.) p. 7.

Circle Officer

Conduct of—during election of President of Kalocho Union Board, Tippera: (Q.) p. 138.

Civil and criminal courts

Waiting sheds for witnesses in—of Mymensingh: (Q.) p. 22.

Clerks

Discharged by the District Judge of Noakhali: (Q.) p. 306.

Colleges

Separate arrangement for teaching Arabic, Persian, etc., in— (Q.) p. 318.

Convictions

For cutting embankment on Eastern Bengal Railway branch lines (Q.) p. 305.

Cottage industries

In 24-Parganas: (Q.) p. 26.

Cotton cultivation

In Bengal: (Q.) p. 81.

Crops

Destruction of—by floods and water hyacinth in Tippera: (Q.) p. 93.

Cresfield, Mr. L. M.

Jails and Convicts Settlement—28: pp. 251-252.

Cultivation

Of Napier grass in the Province: (Q.) p. 27.

Dacca

Government Muslim High School: (Q.) p. 83.

Das, Mr. Monomohan

Representation of Scheduled Castes on District School Board, Mymensingh: (Q.) p. 140.

Das, Babu Radhanath

Police—29: pp. 42-44.

Das Gupta, Babu Khagendra Nath

Motor accidents in Calcutta: (Q.) p. 14.

Rights of jotedars and chaukidars in the Western Duars Khas Mahal: (Q.) p. 7.

Das Gupta, Srijut Narendra Nath

Barisal Municipal election (Q.) p. 89.

Datta, Mr. Dhirendra Nath

Administration of Justice—27: pp. 121-124.

Destruction of crops by floods and water-hyacinth in Tippera: (Q.) p. 93.

Irrigation—XVII, etc.: pp. 171-173.

Point of order pp. 97, 102, 103.

Debt Settlement Board in Jessore: (Q.) p. 94.

Debt Settlement Board of Uttar Hamchadi, Noakhali

Personnel of the—: (Q.) p. 94.

Delay in answering questions: p. 321.

Demand for grant(s)

Administration of Justice—27: pp. 121-135.

Charges on account of Motor Vehicles Taxation Acts—12 p. 302.

Civil Works—50 and Civil Works not charged to Revenue—81: pp. 195-204.

Commutations of pensions financed from Ordinary Revenues—55A: p. 301.

Commuted value of pensions not charged to Revenue—[illegible]3: p. 301.

Deposits and advances—Interest-free advances p. 302.

Education—Anglo-Indian and European —37 pp. 266-272.

General Administration—Debt Conciliation—25 pp. 228-247.

Industries—Cinchona—43: p. 283.

Interest on Debts and other Obligations—22: pp. 280-283.

Irrigation—XVII, etc. pp 148-195.

Jails and Convicts Settlement—28. pp. 248-259.

Loans and advances bearing interest: p. 302.

Miscellaneous—57 pp. 284-301.

Miscellaneous Departments—47 p. 302.

Other Taxes and Duties—13: pp. 272-280.

Police—29 pp. 31-66, 103-119.

Ports and Pilotage—30: p. 301.

Provincial Excise—8: pp 212-227.

Scientific Departments—36 p. 302.

Stationery and Printing and Depreciation Reserve Fund—Government Presses—56: p. 301.

Superannuation Allowances and Pensions—55: p. 301.

Supplementary: pp. 322-331.

Deputy Director of Agriculture

Appointment of—: (Q.) p. 309.

Dinajpur

Recovery charges in the district of—: (Q.) p. 18.

Supply of seeds of paddy and jute to the villagers of police-stations Itahar and Tapan: (Q.) p. 78.

Discharge of non-pleader surveyor commissioners under the High Court, Calcutta: (Q.) p. 24.

Discretionary grant

Distribution of—at the disposal of District Magistrate, Tippera: (Q.) p. 97.

Dismissal of police officers

In the regime of present Subdivisional Police Officer at Brahmanbaria: (Q.) p. 29.

Distribution of breeding bulls: (Q.) p. 95

District Judge of Noakhali

Clerks discharged by the—: (Q.) p. 306.

Division

Police—29 pp. 119-120.

Provincial Excise—8: pp. 227-228.

Dutta, Mr. Sukumar

Civil Works—50 and Civil Works not charged to Revenue—81: pp. 195-198.

Dutta Mazumdar, Mr. Niharendu

Adjournment motion regarding the hunger-strike of the workers in the Radha Krishna Jute Mill: pp. 99-100.

Miscellaneous—57: pp. 292-295.

Edbar, Mr. Upendra Nath

Irrigation—XVII, etc.: p. 176.

Education

Of the Scheduled Castes students in Burdwan district: (Q.) p. 85.

Elected and nominated members

Of District Board, Khulna and Satkhira Local Board, Khulna: (Q.) p. 207.

Election

Barisal municipal—: (Q.) p. 89.

Conduct of Circle Officer during—of President of Kalocho Union Board, Tippera: (Q.) p. 138.

Embankment

Convictions for cutting—on Eastern Bengal Railway branch lines: (Q.) p. 305.

Erosion of the Brahmaputra: (Q.) p. 96.

Establishment

Of charitable dispensary at Terokhada, Khulna: (Q.) p. 17.

Of Pabna Collectorate: (Q.) p. 71.

Expenses of Government

For reporting speeches by Intelligence Branch reporters at Pabna: (Q.) p. 20.

Failure of jute in Tippera: (Q.) p. 29.

Farhad Raza Chowdhury, Mr. M.

Irrigation—XVII, etc.: pp. 167-168.

Faridpur scheme

Tenancy rights on laws under the: (Q.) p. 209.

Fazlul Huq, the Hon'ble Mr. A. K.

Appointment of Buchanan Physical Instructors: (Q.) p. 76.

Fazlul Huq, the Hon'ble Mr. A. K.— *Contd.*

Compulsory religious instructions in primary schools: (Q.) p. 320.

Education—Anglo-Indian and European—37: pp. 266, 271-172.

Education of the Scheduled Castes students in Burdwan district: (Q.) p. 85.

Government Muslim High School, Dacca: (Q.) p. 84.

Government stipends to the tols of Nabadwip. (Q.) p. 142.

Gurus admitted into the Guru-training Classes, Rangpur: (Q.) p. 147.

Hindu students reading in maktabs: (Q.) p. 145.

Introduction of free primary education in Jessore district: (Q.) p. 309.

Lectures in Calcutta Madrasahs: (Q.) p. 12.

Maintenance of Government High English Schools in Bengal: (Q.) p. 312.

Publication of the result of the Reformed-scheme Junior Madrassah Examination. (Q.) p. 29.

Rajpur High English School, Bakarganj (Q.) p. 321.

Rate of school fees in the primary and secondary schools in Bengal: (Q.) p. 10.

Registration—11: p. 322.

Representation of Scheduled Castes on District School Board, Mymensingh: (Q.) p. 140.

Research scholarships for madrassah scholars: (Q.) p. 23.

Scientific Departments—36: p. 302.

Separate arrangements for teaching Arabic, Persian, etc., in Colleges: (Q.) pp. 318-319.

Sixty per cent. of appointments to Muslims: (Q.) p. 205.

Want of public latrine at Sub-Registry office, Netrokona, Mymensingh: (Q.) p. 8.

Fazlul Qadir, Khan Bahadur, Maulvi

Sheristadars in Bengal: (Q.) p. 304.

Fazlur Rahman, Mr. (Mymensingh)

Sixty per cent. of appointments to Muslims: (Q.) p. 205.

Fees

Rate of school—in the primary and secondary schools in Bengal: (Q.) p. 9.

Flood relief in Tangail subdivision: (Q.) p. 3.

Floods and water-hyacinth in Tippera

Destruction of crops by—: (Q.) p. 93.

Floods at Panchkura police-station, Midnapore: (Q.) p. 73.

Free primary education

Introduction of—in Jessore district: (Q.) p. 308.

German films

Private exhibition of—by German trading firms: (Q.) p. 9.

Ghose, Mr. Atul Krishna

Deposits and advances: pp. 329-330.

Industries—Cinchona—43: pp. 323-324.

Police—29. pp. 106-108.

Gomes, Mr. S. A.

Irrigation—XVII, etc.: pp. 168-170.

Government aid

To Langalkot and Monoharganj Union Board dispensaries: (Q.) p. 314.

Government Estate

Rate of rent in temporarily-settled—: (Q.) p. 78.

Government High English Schools

Maintenance of—in Bengal: (Q.) 311.

Government Muslim High School, Dac

(Q.) p. 83.

Government stipends

To the tols of Nabadwip: (Q.) p. 142.

Gratuitous relief

And agricultural loans in the subdivision of Tippera: (Q.) p. 23.

Griffiths, Mr. C.

Education—Anglo-Indian and European—37: pp. 266-268.

Guru-training classes

Gurus admitted into—, Rangpur: (Q.) p. 147.

Gyasuddin Ahmed Choudhury, Al-hadj

Convictions for cutting embankment on Eastern Bengal Railway branch lines: (Q.) p. 305.

Silting up of rivers between Tarpassa and Madaripur: (Q.) p. 136.

Habibullah, the Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur K., of Dacca

Barisal municipal election: (Q.) p. 89.

Cottage industries in 24-Parganas: (Q.) p. 26.

Elected and nominated members of District Board, Khulna and Satkhira Local Board, Khulna: (Q.) p. 207.

The Calcutta Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 1939: p. 303.

Hamiduddin Ahmad, Khan Sahib

Meetings of the "Kisan Sabha" at Kishoreganj: (Q.) p. 90.

Hasanuzzaman, Maulvi Muhammad

Distribution of discretionary grant at the disposal of District Magistrate, Tippera: (Q.) p. 97.

Government aid to Langalkot and Monoharganj Union Board dispensaries: (Q.) p. 314.

Hendry, Mr. David

Irrigation—XVII, etc.: pp. 181-184.

Hindu students

Reading in maktabs: (Q.) p. 145.

Idris Ahmed Mia, Maulvi

Irrigation—XVII, etc.: pp. 189-190.

Intelligence Branch reporters

Expenses of Government for reporting speeches by—at Pabna: (Q.) p. 20.

Introduction of free primary education in Jessore district: (Q.) p. 308.

Jalaluddin Ahmad, Khan Bahadur Maulvi

Provincial Excise—8: pp. 222-223.

Jalaluddin Hashemy, Mr. Syed

Other Taxes and Duties—13. pp. 272-274.

Jalan, Mr. I. D.

General Administration—Debt Conciliation—25: pp. 239-241.

Jessore Debt Settlement Boards: (Q.) p. 94.

Jessore district

Introduction of free primary education in—. (Q.) p. 308.

Jotedars

And chaukanidars in Jalpaiguri Khas Mahal: (Q.) p. 85.

Rights of—and chaukanidars in the Western Duars Khas Mahal: (Q.) p. 7.

Jute

Failure of—in Tippera: (Q.) p. 29.

Kennedy, Mr. I. G.

Police—29: pp. 47-49.

Khas Mahal

Jotedars and chaukanidars in Jalpaiguri: (Q.) p. 85.

Rights of jotedars and chaukanidars in the Western Duars— (Q.) p.

Khulna

Elected and nominated members of District Board, —and Satkhira Local Board: (Q.) p. 207.

Establishment of charitable dispensary at Terokhada,—: (Q.) p. 17.

Kisan Sabha

Meetings of the—at Kishoreganj: (Q.) p. 90.

Kundu, Mr. Nishitha Nath

Irrigation—XVII, etc.: pp. 187-188.

Police—29: pp. 109-111.

Recovery charges in the district of Dinajpur: (Q.) p. 18.

Supply of seeds of paddy and jute to the villagers of police-stations Itahar and Tapan, Dinajpur. (Q.) p. 78.

Lecturers in Calcutta Madrassah: (Q.) p. 12.

Live-stock and poultry

In Naogaon subdivision, Rajshahi: (Q.) p. 79.

Madrassah scholars

Research scholarships for—: (Q.) p. 23.

Mafizuddin Ahmed, Maulvi

Discharge of non-pleader Surveyor Commissioners under the High Court, Calcutta: (Q.) p. 24.

Dismissal, etc., of police officers in the regime of present Subdivisional Police Officer at Brahmanbaria: (Q.) p. 29.

Failure of Jute in Tippera: (Q.) p. 29.

General Administration—Debt Conciliation—25: pp. 241-242.

Maguire, Mr. L. T.

Education—Anglo-Indian and European—37: pp. 268-270.

Maintenance of Government High English Schools in Bengal: (Q.) p. 311

Maiti, Mr. Nikunja Behari

Miscellaneous—57 pp 284-286

Majumdar, Mrs. Hemaprova

Jails and Convicts Settlement—28 pp 254-255.

Maktabs

Hindu students reading in— (Q.) p 145.

Mal, Mr. Iswar Chandra

Irrigation—XVII, etc.: pp. 179-180.

Mandal, Mr. Amrita Lal

Tangail-Mymensingh Road Improvement Project. (Q.) p. 206.

Tangi-Tangail-Pingna Railway Project: (Q.) p. 206.

Mandal, Mr. Banku Behari

Education of the Scheduled Castes students in Burdwan district: (Q.) p. 85.

Mandal, Mr. Jagat Chandra

Gratuitous relief and agricultural loans in the subdivisions of Tippera: (Q.) p 23.

Mandal, Mr. Jogendra Nath

Police—29 pp. 60-63

Maniruddin Akhand, Maulvi

Live-stock and poultry in Naogaon subdivision, Rajshahi. (Q.) p. 79.

Maniruzzaman Islamabadi, Maulana Md.

Police—29 pp. 56-57.

Research scholarships for madrassah scholars (Q.) p. 23.

Maqbul Hossain, Mr.

Conduct of Circle Officer during election of President of Kalocho Union Board, Tippera. (Q.) p. 138.

Provincial Excise—8 pp. 217-219.

Publication of the result of the Reformed-scheme Junior Madrassah Examination (Q.) p. 28.

Mazumdar, Mr. Birendra Nath

Provincial Excise—8: pp. 213-217.

Measurements

Recording—in the measurement book by passed overseers: (Q.) p. 2.

Meetings

Of the "Kisan Sabha" at Kishoreganj: (Q.) p. 90.

Members of District Board

Elected and nominated—Khulna and Satkhira Local Board, Khulna: (Q.) p. 207.

Message from the Council

Regarding the Bengal Dentists' Bill, 1938 and the Bengal Tanks Improvement Bill, 1938: p. 148.

Midnapore

Floods at Panchkura police-station: (Q.) p. 73.

Misappropriation of money

In Nalchira Khas Mahal office in Noakhali district: (Q.) p. 18.

Morgan, Mr. George

Civil Works—50 and Civil Works not charged to Revenue—81: pp. 200-202.

Moslem Ali Mollah, Maulvi

Other Taxes and Duties—13: pp. 276-278.

Motor accidents in Calcutta: (Q.) p. 14.

Mozammel Huq, Maulvi Md.

Administration of Justice—27. pp. 125-128.

Mukerji, Mr. Dhirendra Narayan

Interest on Debt and Other Obligations—22: pp. 280-283.

Mukherjee, Mr. B.

Irrigation—XVII, etc.: pp. 184-185.

Police—29: pp. 103-106.

Mukherji, Dr. H. C.

Provincial Excise—8: pp. 219-222.

Mukherji, Dr. Sharat Chandra

Agricultural Farm in Suri, Birbhum: (Q.) p. 80.

Jails and Convicts Settlement—28: pp. 255-256.

Rate of school fees in the primary and secondary schools in Bengal: (Q.) p. 9.

Mullick, the Hon'ble Mr. Mukunda Behari

Debt Settlement Boards in Jessore: (Q.) p. 94.

General Administration—Debt Conciliation—25: pp. 228-231, 243-247.

Personnel of the Debt Settlement Board of Uttar Hamchadi, Noakhali: (Q.) p. 95.

Mullick, Mr. Pulin Behary

Administration of Justice—27: pp. 128-130.

Musharruff Hossain, the Hon'ble Nawab, Khan Bahadur

Administration of Justice—27: pp. 121, 130-134.

Clerks discharged by the District Judge of Noakhali: (Q.) p. 307.

Discharge of non-pleader Surveyor Commissioners under the High Court, Calcutta: (Q.) p. 25.

Waiting room at Mymensingh Court for Jurors (Q.) p. 68.

Waiting sheds for witnesses in civil and criminal courts of Mymensingh: (Q.) p. 22.

Mymensingh

Representation of Scheduled Castes on District School Board—. (Q.) p. 140.

Waiting sheds for witnesses in civil and criminal courts of—. (Q.) p. 22.

Mymensingh Court

Waiting room for Jurors: (Q.) p. 68.

Nalchira Khas Mahal

Misappropriation of money in—office in Noakhali district: (Q.) p. 18.

Nandy, the Hon'ble Maharaja Srischandra, of Cossimbazar

Breaches in the Jamuna at Serajganj: (Q.) p. 2.

Charges on account of Motor Vehicles Taxation Acts—12: p. 302.

Nandy, the Hon'ble Maharaja Srischandra, of Cossimbazar—*Contd.*

Civil Works—50 and Civil Works not charged to Revenue—81: pp. 195, 203-204.

Erosion of Brahmaputra: (Q.) p. 97.

Floods at Panchkura police-station, Midnapore: (Q.) p. 74.

Irrigation—XVII, etc.: pp. 148-152, 190-194.

Recording measurements in the measurement book by passed overseers: (Q.) p. 3.

Silting up of river between Tarpassa and Madaripur. (Q.) p. 136.

Tangail-Mymensingh Road Improvement Project: (Q.) p. 206.

Tangi-Tangail-Pingna Railway Project: (Q.) p. 206.

Naogaon subdivision

Live-stock and poultry in—Rajshahi: (Q.) p. 79.

Napier grass

Cultivation of—in the Province. (Q.) p. 27.

Nazimuddin, the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir, K.C.I.E.

Conduct of Circle Officer during election of President of Kalocho Union Board, Tippera: (Q.) p. 138.

Convictions for cutting embankment on Eastern Bengal Railway branch lines: p. 305.

Dismissal, etc., of police officers in the regime of present Subdivisional Police Officer at Brahmanbaria: (Q.) p. 29.

Expenses of Government for reporting speeches by Intelligence Branch reporters at Pabna: (Q.) p. 20.

Jails and Convicts Settlement—28: pp. 248, 257-259.

Meetings of the Kisan Sabha at Kishoreganj: (Q.) p. 90.

Motor accidents in Calcutta: (Q.) p. 15.

Nazimuddin, the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir, K.C.I.E.—*Contd.*

Order of restriction on Amitabha Bhowmik of Dacca: (Q.) p. 315.

Police—29: pp. 31-36, 111-119.

Private exhibition of German films by German trading firms: (Q.) p. 97.

Recruitment of non-Bengali police constables: (Q.) p. 69.

Netrokona

Want of public latrine at Sub-Registry office, —, Mymensingh: (Q.) p. 8.

Noakhali

Personnel of the Debt Settlement Board of Uttar Hamchadi in—: (Q.) p. 94.

Misappropriation of money in Nalchira Khas Mahal office in—district: (Q.) p. 18.

Non-pleader Surveyor Commissioners

Discharge of—under the High Court, Calcutta: (Q.) p. 24.

Obituary

Maulana Hazrat Abu Bakr and Khan Bahadur Syed Abdul Hafeez: p. 67.

Order of restriction

On Amritabha Bhowmik of Dacca: (Q.) p. 315.

Pabna

Agricultural loan and gratuitous relief in—: (Q.) p. 72.

Pabna Collectorate

Establishment of—: (Q.) p. 71.

Pargana rate: (Q.) p. 93.

Permission to Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi

To be absent during the session: p. 821.

Point of order

Raised by Mr. Dhirendra Nath Datta: pp. 97, 98, 102, 103.

Police constables

Recruitment of non-Bengali—: (Q.) p. 69.

Police officers

Dismissal, etc., of—in the regime of present Subdivisional Police Officer at Brahmanbaria: (Q.) p 29.

Primary and secondary schools

Rate of school fees in the—in Bengal: (Q.) p. 9.

Primary schools

Compulsory religious instructions in—: (Q.) p. 320.

Private exhibition of German films

By German trading firms (Q.) p. 9

Public latrine

Want of—at Sub-Registry office, Netrokona, Mymensingh: (Q.) p. 8.

Qualifications of the Officer-in-charge of Poultry Department: (Q.) p. 84.

Radha Kissen Cotton Mills, No. 2 of Belur, Howrah

Stay-in strike in— (Q.) p. 260.

Raikut, the Hon'ble Mr. Prasanna Deb

Industries—Cinchona—43: pp. 283, 323

Provincial Excise—8: pp. 212-213.

Rajpur High English School, Bakarganj: (Q.) p. 321.

Rangpur

Gurus admitted into the Guru-training Classes in—: (Q.) p. 147.

Rate

Of rent in the temporarily-settled Government Estate: (Q.) p. 78.

Of school fees in the primary and secondary schools in Bengal: (Q.) p. 9.

Recording measurements

In the measurement book by passed overseers: (Q.) p. 2.

Recovery charges

In the district of Dinajpur. (Q.) p. 18

Recruitment

Of non-Bengali police constables: (Q.) p. 69.

Reformed-scheme Junior Madrasah Examination

Publication of the result of the—: (Q.) p. 28.

Relief to the peasants of Serajganj subdivision: (Q.) p. 208.

Religious instructions in primary schools

Compulsory: (Q.) p. 320.

Rent

Rate of—in temporarily-settled Government Estate: (Q.) p. 78.

Reporting speeches

Expenses of Government for—by Intelligence Branch reporters at Pabna: (Q.) p. 20.

Representation of Scheduled Castes

On District School Board, Mymensingh: (Q.) p. 140.

Research scholarships

For madrassah scholars: (Q.) p. 23.

Restriction

Order of—on Amitabha Bhowmik of Dacca: (Q.) p. 345.

Result of the Reformed-scheme

Publication of the Junior Madrassah Examination: (Q.) p. 28.

Rights

Of Jotedars and Chaukanidars in the Western Duars Khas Mahal: (Q.) p. 7.

River Jamuna

Breaches in the at Serajganj (Q.) p. 1.

Rivers between Tarpassa and Madaripur

Silting up of— (Q.) p. 136.

Road improvement project

Tangail-Mymensingh— (Q.) p. 206

Roy, the Hon'ble Sir Bijoy Prasad Singh

Agricultural loan and gratuitous relief in Pabna: (Q.) p. 72.

Destruction of crops by floods and water-hyacinth in Tippera: (Q.) p. 94.

Distribution of discretionary grant at the disposal of District Magistrate, Tippera: (Q.) p. 97.

Establishment of Pabna Collectorate: (Q.) p. 71.

Failure of jute in Tippera. (Q.) p. 30.

Famine Relief—54: pp. 324, 327-328.

Flood relief in Tangail subdivision: (Q.) p. 4.

Gratuitous relief and agricultural loans in the subdivisions of Tippera: (Q.) p. 23.

Roy, the Hon'ble Sir Bijoy Prasad Singh— *Contd.*

Jotedars and chaukanidars in Jalpaiguri Khas Mahal: (Q.) p. 86.

Misappropriation of money in Nalchira Khas Mahal Office in Noakhali district: (Q.) p. 18.

Other Taxes and Duties—13: p. 272.

Pargana rate: (Q.) p. 93.

Rate of rent in temporarily-settled Government Estate: (Q.) p. 78.

Recovery charges in the district of Dinajpur: (Q.) p. 19.

Relief to the peasants of Serajganj subdivision: (Q.) p. 208.

Rights of jotedars and chaukanidars in the Western Duars Khas Mahal: (Q.) p. 7.

Settlement Kanungos: (Q.) p. 87.

Sheristadars in Bengal: (Q.) p. 305.

Supply of seeds of paddy and jute to the villagers of police-station Itahar and Tapan, Dinajpur: (Q.) p. 78.

Roy, Mr. Charu Chandra

Appointment of Deputy Director of Agriculture (Q.) p. 309.

Cotton cultivation in Bengal: (Q.) p. 81.

Cultivation of Napier grass in the Province: (Q.) p. 27.

Distribution of breeding bulls: (Q.) p. 95.

Irrigation—XVII, etc., pp. 162-163.

Qualification of the officer-in-charge of Poultry Department: (Q.) p. 84.

Waiting rooms at Mymensingh Court for Jurors: (Q.) p. 68.

Roy, Mr. Kamal Krishna

Irrigation—XVII, etc.: pp. 165-166.

Roy, Mr. Patiram

Elected and nominated members of District Board, Khulna and Satkhira Local Board, Khulna: (Q.) p. 207.

Irrigation—XVII, etc.: p. 181.

Sadaruddin Ahmed, Mr.

Maintenance of Government High English Schools in Bengal: (Q.) p. 311.

Rajpur High English School, Bakarganj: (Q.) p. 321.

Salim, Mr. S. A.

Compulsory religious instructions in primary schools: (Q.) p. 320.

Government Muslim High School, Dacca: (Q.) p. 83.

Sanaullah, Dr.

Private exhibition of German film by German trading firms: (Q.) p. 9.

Sanyal, Dr. Nalinaksha

Civil Works—50 and Civil Works not charged to Revenue—81 pp. 198-200.

Irrigation—XVII, etc.: pp. 153-159.

Other Taxes and Duties—13 pp. 274-276.

Sanyal, Mr. Sasanka Sekhar

Famine Relief—54: pp. 324-326.

General Administration—Debt Conciliation—25: pp. 231-233.

Sarker, the Hon'ble Mr. Nalini Ranjan

Deposits and Advances: pp. 329-330.

Deposits and Advances—Interest free Advances: p. 302.

Interest on Debt and Other Obligations—22: pp. 280, 283.

Interest on Debt and Other Obligations—22: p. 323.

Loans and advances bearing interest: p. 302.

Miscellaneous—57: pp. 284, 299-300.

Other Taxes and Duties—13: pp. 279-280.

Sarker, the Hon'ble Mr. Nalini Ranjan— *Contd.*

Provincial Excise—8: pp. 223-223.

Stationery and Printing and Depreciation Reserve Fund—Government Presses—56: p. 301.

Superannuation Allowances and Pensions—55, Commutations of Pensions financed from ordinary Revenue—55A: p. 328.

Superannuation Allowances and Pensions—55, 55A—Commutations of Pensions financed from ordinary Revenues, and 83—Commuted Value of Pensions not charged to Revenue: p. 301.

Scheduled Castes

Representation of—on District School Board, Mymensingh (Q.) p. 140.

Education of the—student II in the Burdwan district: (Q.) p. 85.

School fees

Rate of—in the primary and secondary schools in Bengal (Q.) p. 9.

Seeds of paddy and jute

Supply of—to the villagers of police-stations Itahar and Tapan, Dinajpur: (Q.) p. 78.

Separate arrangements for teaching Arabic, Persian, etc., in Colleges: (Q.) p. 318.

Serajganj subdivision

Relief to the peasants of—: (Q.) p. 208.

Serajul Islam, Mr.

Police—29: pp. 59-60.

Settlement Kanungos: (Q.) p. 86.

Shahedali, Mr.

Miscellaneous—57: pp. 286-288.

Sheristadars in Bengal: (Q.) p. 304.

Silting up

Of rivers between Tarpassa and Madaripur: (Q.) p. 136.

Singha, Babu Kshetra Nath

Gurus admitted into the Guru-training classes, Rangpur: (Q.) p. 147.

Sinha, Srijut Manindra Bhusan

Miscellaneous—57: pp. 284, 292.

Sixty per cent. of appointments to Muslims: (Q.) p. 205.

Speaker, Mr. (The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mir Azizul Haque, C.I.E.): Observations and Rulings on

Announcements regarding order of business for 23rd, 24th, and 25th March pp. 134-135.

Point of order raised by Mr. Dhirendra Nath Datta pp. 97, 102, 103.

Regarding Dr. Sanyal's point of order: p. 190.

Adjournment motion regarding the hunger-strike of the workers in the Radha Krishna Jute Mill p. 102.

Stay-in strike

In Radha Kissen Cotton Mills No. 2 of Belur, Howrah (Q.) p. 260.

Stipends

Government—to the tols of Nabadwip. (Q.) p. 142.

Strike

In Radha Kissen Cotton Mills No. 2 of Belur, Howrah: (Q.) pp. 260.

Sub-Registry office

Want of public latrine at—, Netrokona, Mymensingh: (Q.) p. 8.

Suhrawardy, the Hon'ble Mr. H. S.

Adjournment motion. Regarding the hunger-strike of the workers in the Radha Krishna Jute Mill: pp. 100-101.

Miscellaneous—57: pp. 296-299.

Miscellaneous Departments—47: p. 302.

Other Taxes and Duties—13: pp. 278-279.

Ports and Pilotage—30: p. 301.

Stay-in strike in Radha Kissen Cotton Mills No. 2 of Belur, Howrah: (Q.) p. 260.

Trade Unions (Q.) p. 313.

Supplementary Demands for grants: pp. 322-331.

Deposits and Advances: p. 329.

Famine Relief—54: p. 324.

Industries—Cinchona—43: p. 323.

Interest on Debt and Other Obligations—22 p. 323.

Registration—11: p. 322.

Superannuation Allowances and Pensions—55, Commutations of Pensions financed from ordinary Revenue—55A p. 328.

Suri

Agricultural Farm in—, Birbhum: (Q.) p. 80.

Surveyor Commissioners

Discharge of non-pleader—under the High Court, Calcutta: (Q.) p. 24.

Tamizuddin Khan, the Hon'ble Mr.

Agricultural Farm in Suri, Birbhum: (Q.) p. 80.

Appointment of Deputy Director of Agriculture. (Q.) p. 310.

Arial Bil Water-hyacinth Control Scheme. (Q.) p. 88.

Cotton cultivation in Bengal: (Q.) p. 82.

Cultivation of Napier grass in the Province: (Q.) p. 27.

Tamizuddin Khan, the Hon'ble Mr.—*Contd.*

Distribution of breeding bulls: (Q.) p. 95.

Establishment of charitable dispensary at Terokhada, Khulna: (Q.) p. 17.

Government aid to Langalkot and Monoharganj Union Board dispensaries: (Q.) p. 314.

Live-stock and poultry in Naogaon subdivision, Rajshahi: (Q.) p. 79.

Qualifications of the officer-in-charge of Poultry Department: (Q.) p. 84.

Tangail-Mymensingh Road improvement project: (Q.) p. 206.

Tenancy right on lands under the Faridpur scheme: (Q.) p. 209.

Tangail subdivision

Flood relief in: (Q.) p. 3.

Tangi-Tangail-Pingna Railway Project: (Q.) p. 206.

Tenancy right

On lands under the Faridpur Scheme: (Q.) p. 209.

Thakur, Mr. Promatho Ranjan

Irrigation—XVII, etc. pp. 163-164.

Tippera

Conduct of Circle Officer during election of President of Kalocho Union Board: (Q.) p. 138.

Destruction of crops by floods and water-hyacinth in: (Q.) p. 93.

Distribution of discretionary grant at the disposal of District Magistrate: (Q.) p. 97.

Tippera—*Contd.*

Failure of jute in: (Q.) p. 29.

Gratuitous relief and agricultural loans in the subdivision of—: (Q.) p. 23.

Tols of Nabadwip

Government stipends to the—: (Q.) p. 142.

Trade Unions: (Q.) p. 313.

Twenty-four Parganas

Cottage industries in—: (Q.) p. 26.

Union Board Dispensaries

Government aid to Langalkot and Monoharganj—: (Q.) p. 314.

Waiting room

At Mymensingh Court for Jurors: (Q.) p. 68.

Waiting sheds

For witnesses in civil and criminal courts of Mymensingh. (Q.) p. 22.

Water-hyacinth Control Scheme

Arial Bil: (Q.) p. 87.

Wordsworth, Mr. W. C.

Education—Anglo-Indian and European—37. pp. 270-271.

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B. G. Press—1939-40—6304A—800.